QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

AT THE MEETINGS OF THE

Council of the Governor of Fort St. George

ASSEMBLED

FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING LAWS AND REGULATIONS
(1893–1909)

VOL. II (1900–1909)

WITH INDEX.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

MADRAS:
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1911.

PREFATORY NOTES.

When the Honourable Member who gave notice of a question was not present at the meeting to put the question himself and the question was put by some other Honourable Member on his behalf, the names of both the Honourable Members have been given.

2. The Roman figures in square brackets after the Arabic numbers of questions indicate the serial numbers of the questions for each meeting.

3. Where in a question or answer reference is made to another question or answer at the same or at a different meeting, the page of the volume at which the question or answer so referred to appears has been noted in the margin.

4. When a question has been repeated at a meeting subsequent to that at which it was first put, the identity of the two questions has been noted in each place.

5. The date of the meeting to which the questions on a page relate has been noted at the top of the page.

6. In the index, the subject-matter of questions has been classified according to the departments of the Secretariat to which they relate, the entries relating to each department being arranged in the alphabetical order of the subjects.

LIST OF ADDITIONAL MEMBERS.

I.—Officials.

Names.	Period of office. From	Period of office. To
Andrew, I.C.S., the Hon'ble Mr. James	20th May 1904	22nd November 1904.
	2nd April 1907	18th March 1908.
Atkinson, C.S.I., the Hon'ble Mr. John Nathaniel	8th November 1901	7th ,, 1905.
	1st ,, 1905	10th August 1908.
Bhashyam Aiyangar, *Kt.*, C.I.E., the Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur Sir Vembakam.	6th May 1904	8th November 1904.
	13th August 1906	18th July 1907.
Bilderbeck, the Hon'ble Mr. James Bourdillon *	23rd January 1903	11th February 1904.
Bourne, D.Sc., F.R.S., C.I.E., the Hon'ble Mr. Alfred Gibbs	3rd December 1903	31st August 1906.
	30th September 1907	30th September 1909.
	9th October 1909	15th November ,,
Bradley, C.S.I., the Hon'ble Mr. Herbert	5th December 1900	2nd May 1902.
	11th November 1902	29th October 1903.
	25th March 1904	20th April 1906.
	3rd December 1906	14th February 1908.
Cardew, C.S.I., the Hon'ble Mr. Alexander Gordon	5th ,, 1905	31st August 1906.
	5th ,, 1907	18th November 1908.
	9th October 1909	15th ,, 1909.
Clegg, I.C.S., the Hon'ble Mr. Robert Bailey	18th November 1908	15th ,, ,,
Davidson, M.I.C.E., the Hon'ble Mr. John Paton	20th April 1906	26th October 1906.
DeWinton, C.I.E., the Hon'ble Mr. Walter Bernard	30th September 1901	12th February 1902.
	11th March 1905	30th November 1905.
Elwin, I.C.S., the Hon'ble Mr. Edgar Alfred	18th ,, 1908	14th September 1908.
Forbes, K.C.S.I., the Hon'ble Sir George Stuart	13th June 1900	5th October 1903.
	26th February 1904	1st May 1904.
	20th December ,,	6th October 1905.
Hammick, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., the Hon'ble Sir Murray	19th November 1901	11th March 1902.
	2nd May 1902	6th November 1902.
	9th March 1903	20th December 1904.
	7th ,, 1905	15th February 1906.
	28th ,, 1906	30th November 1906.
	10th August 1908	9th ,, 1908.
Higgens, I.C.S., the Hon'ble Mr. Alfred William Buckle	9th ,, 1901	11th April 1902.
Horne, I.C.S., the Hon'ble Mr. William Ogilvie	29th February 1908	15th November 1909.
Hughes, the Hon'ble Mr. William	5th December 1900	16th September 1901.
Le Fanu, I.C.S., the Hon'ble Mr. William Joseph Henry	28th March 1900	5th December 1900.
Logan, the Hon'ble Mr. Thomas Tweddle	31st August 1906	30th September 1907.
Mackenzie, I.C.S., the Hon'ble Mr. Gordon Thomas	8th May 1902	11th November 1902.
Meyer, K.C.I.E., the Hon'ble Sir William Stevenson	1st November 1909	15th ,, 1909.
Nicholson, K.C.I.E., the Hon'ble Sir Frederick Augustus	10th August 1899	5th December 1900.
	11th April 1902	16th March 1903.
Rajaratna Mudaliyar, C.I.E., the Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur Pakam	14th November 1898	5th November 1901.
Sankaran Nayar, C.I.E., the Hon'ble Mr. Chettur	18th July 1907	9th October 1907.
	1st November 1907	21st November 1907.
Schmidt, the Hon'ble Mr. Clarence Rose Macaulay	9th October 1909	15th ,, 1909.
Sim, C.I.E., the Hon'ble Mr. Henry Alexander	30th September 1901	25th March 1904.
Sivaswami Aiyar, C.I.E., the Hon'ble Mr. Pazhamarneri Sundaram Aiyar.	9th October 1907	1st November 1907.
	21st November 1907	15th ,, 1909.
Smart, R.E., the Hon'ble Col. Alexander William	3rd March 1902	23rd January 1903.
Spring, C.I.E., the Hon'ble Mr. Francis Joseph Edward	16th December 1899	5th December 1900.
	29th January 1901	5th November 1901.
Srinivasa Aiyar, C.I.E., the Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur Rishiyur Venkata.	18th November 1902	18th August 1903.
	30th October 1903	30th March 1909.
Srinivasa Raghava Aiyangar, C.I.E., the Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur Seshadri.	8th November 1901	11th November 1902.
	18th August 1903	29th October 1903.
Stokes, C.S.I., the Hon'ble Mr. Gabriel	13th June 1900	19th November 1901.
	11th March 1902	3rd May 1902.
	6th November 1902	9th March 1903.
Stuart, C.S.I., the Hon'ble Mr. Andrew Edmund Castlestuart	28th October 1903	26th February 1904.
	5th May 1904	2nd April 1907.
	3rd December 1908	15th November 1909.
Stuart, the Hon'ble Mr. George Henry	26th November 1901	Died on 9th November 1903.
Thomson, K.C.S.I., the Hon'ble Mr. James	22nd September 1898	9th May 1901.
Twigg, I.C.S., the Hon'ble Mr. John	29th October 1903	20th ,, 1904.
	22nd November 1904	21st April 1909.
Wallis, the Hon'ble Mr. John Edward Power	26th March 1900	6th May 1904.
	8th November 1904	12th August 1906.
Weir, I.C.S., the Honble Mr. Charles James	18th March 1903	20th April 1905.
	1st November 1905	27th ,, 1907.
	1st ,, 1907	15th November 1909.
Wilson, C.I.E., the Hon'ble Mr. Frederick James	30th October 1905	30th October 1908.
	18th November 1908	15th November 1909.
Wynch, C.I.E., the Hon'ble Mr. Lionel Maling	4th December 1908	16th May 1909.

* Appointed on the recommendation of the University of Madras.

II.—Non-officials.

Names.	Name of local body that recommended, if any.	Period of office. From	To
Abbott, the Hon'ble Mr. Charles Edward.	....	21st March 1908	26th April 1909.
Acworth, the Hon'ble Mr. Granville L.	....	17th March 1900	17th March 1904.
Arbuthnot, *Kt.*, the Hon'ble Sir George Gough.	Chamber of Commerce	19th January 1900 9th December 1902 11th January 1904	25th ,, 1901. 8th May 1903. 3rd February 1905.
Bhashyam Aiyangar, *Kt.*, C.I.E., the Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur Sir Vembakam.	....	28th March 1900	9th March 1901.
Desikachariyar, *Kt.*, the Hon'ble Sir Vembakam Comandur.	Corporation of Madras	22nd August 1904	29th April 1908.
Ghulam Muhammad Ali, the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur.	....	25th January 1904	25th January 1906.
Govindaraghava Aiyar, the Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur Lalapet Arunachala Aiyar.	Northern group of District Boards.	9th January 1903 16th ,, 1905	9th January 1905. 16th ,, 1907.
Guruswami Aiyar, the Hon'ble Mr. Kadayam Ramabhadra.	Southern group of Municipalities.	12th December 1905 14th ,, 1907	12th December 1907. 15th November 1909.
Hamilton, the Hon'ble Mr. John G.	....	8th July 1909	15th ,, ,,
Hodgson, the Hon'ble Mr. Henry Percival.	....	21st March 1904	21st March 1908.
Hunter, the Hon'ble Mr. William Bernard.	Chamber of Commerce	3rd November 1909	15th November 1909.
Jambulingam Mudaliyar, C.I.E., the Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur Carunguli.	Northern group of District Boards.	21st October 1899 22nd November 1901	31st October 1901. 13th September 1902.
Kesava Pillai, the Hon'ble Mr. Pattu	Do.	15th October 1908	15th November 1909.
Krishnan Nayar, the Hon'ble Mr. Mannath.	Southern group of Municipalities.	9th December 1903 12th ,, 1905 14th ,, 1907	9th December 1905. 12th ,, 1907. 15th November 1909.
Krishnaswami Aiyar, the Hon'ble Mr. Venkatarama Aiyar.	Senate of the University of Madras.	9th ,, 1907	9th October 1909.
Lynn, the Hon'ble Mr. Vaughan Goldsmith.	Chamber of Commerce	20th July 1906 29th January 1909	20th March 1908. 11th October 1909.
Macphail, the Hon'ble the Reverend Earle Monteith.	Senate of the University of Madras.	4th November 1909	15th November 1909.
Miller, M.A., LL.D., D.D., C.I.E., the Hon'ble the Rev. Mr. William.	Do.	19th January 1900 4th April 1902	19th January 1902. 21st November ,,
Moore, *Kt.*, C.I.E., the Hon'ble Lieut.-Col. Sir George Montgomerie John.	....	13th June 1900 20th ,, 1902	13th June 1902. 21st January 1903.
Muhammad Raza Khan, Khan Bahadur, the Hon'ble Nawab.	....	2nd February 1906	15th November 1909.
Muttukumaraswami Mudaliyar, the Hon'ble Mr. Chunampet.	....	28th March 1904	Died on 31st October 1906
Narasinheswara Sarma, the Hon'ble Rao Bahadur Baiya.	Northern group of Municipalities.	19th January 1906	15th November 1909.
Norton, the Hon'ble Mr. Eardley John.	Corporation of Madras	22nd September 1899 30th ,, 1901	22nd September 1901. 30th ,, 1903.
Perraju Pantulu, the Hon'ble Mr. Kruttiventi.	Northern group of Municipalities.	22nd November 1901	22nd November 1903.
Prakasa Mudaliyar, the Hon'ble Mr. Rayapuram Nallaviran.	Corporation of Madras	5th October 1903	Died on July 1904.
Ranga Rao Bahadur, K.C.I.E., Raja of Bobbili, the Hon'ble Maharaja Sri Rao Sir Venkata Svetachalapati.	....	4th April 1900	15th February 1904.
Ratnasabhapati Pillai, the Hon'ble Mr. P.	Southern group of Municipalities.	31st October 1899 22nd November 1901	31st October 1901. 22nd November 1903.
Saiyid Muhammad, the Hon'ble Nawab.	....	23rd January 1900	23rd January 1904.
Sankaran Nayar, C.I.E., the Hon'ble Mr. Chettur.	....	23rd ,, 1903	11th July 1904.
Scott, the Hon'ble Mr. Henry	Chamber of Commerce	29th May 1903	5th January 1904.
Sivaswami Aiyar, C.I.E., the Hon'ble Mr. Pazhamarneri Sundaram Aiyar.	Senate of the University of Madras.	12th ,, 1904 15th ,, 1906	12th May 1906. 9th October 1907.
Srinivasa Rao, the Hon'ble Mr. G.	Southern group of District Boards.	22nd November 1901 9th December 1903	22nd November 1903. 9th December 1905.
Srinivasa Rao, the Hon'ble Mr. Krishna.	....	16th February 1907	27th June 1908.
Tiagaraya Chetti, the Hon'ble Rao Bahadur Pitti.	....	29th June 1908	15th November 1909.
Vasudeva Aiyangar, the Hon'ble Mr. Kodiyalam.	....	6th March 1903 9th ,, 1905	6th March 1905. Died in May 1906.
Vasudeva Raja, Valia Nambidi of Kollengode, the Hon'ble Raja Venganad.	....	9th June 1906	15th November 1909.
Venkata Rao, the Hon'ble Mr. Kolachalam.	Northern group of Municipalities.	23rd December 1903	23rd December 1905.
Venkataratnam Pantulu, the Hon'ble Mr. Ganjám.	Do.	31st October 1899	31st October 1901.
Vijayaraghavachariyar, the Hon'ble Mr. C.	Southern group of District Boards.	31st ,, 1899	31st ,, ,,
Virabhadra Razu Bahadur of Kurupam, the Hon'ble Raja Vairicherla.	....	27th November 1906	15th November 1909.
Yorke, the Hon'ble Mr. Algernon Joseph.	Chamber of Commerce	26th April 1901 7th February 1905 2nd April 1908	6th December 1902. 2nd July 1906. 12th January 1909.

LIST OF MEETINGS.

Date of meeting.	Numbers of questions asked.
1900.	
26th January	1–43
* 27th ,,	*Nil.*
* 29th ,,	*Nil.*
30th March	44–81
* 31st ,,	*Nil.*
3rd April	82
* 6th ,,	*Nil.*
1901.	
2nd April	83–120
27th August	121–179
29th November	*Nil.*
1902.	
17th February	180–211
* 18th ,,	*Nil.*
* 19th ,,	*Nil.*
8th April	212–238
2nd June	239–265
15th December	266–308
1903.	
27th February	309–323
* 28th ,,	*Nil.*
* 3rd March	*Nil.*
6th April	324–354
20th November	355–402
18th December	403–417
1904.	
19th January	418–446
12th April	447–498
* 13th ,,	*Nil.*
* 14th ,,	*Nil.*
* 15th ,,	*Nil.*
29th November	499–552
1905.	
27th January	553–594
21st March	595–642
* 22nd ,,	*Nil.*
* 23rd ,,	*Nil.*
4th April	643–655
* 6th ,,	*Nil.*
* 7th ,,	*Nil.*
14th November	656–695
1906.	
6th April	696–756
* 7th ,,	*Nil.*
13th November	757–815
1907.	
22nd January	816–853
9th April	854–883
10th ,,	*Nil.*
2nd December	884–941

* These were adjourned meetings.

LIST OF MEETINGS—*cont.*

Date of meeting.	Numbers of questions asked.
1908.	
9th January	Nil.
* 10th "	Nil.
* 11th "	Nil.
* 13th "	Nil.
* 15th "	Nil.
* 16th "	Nil.
* 17th "	Nil.
* 18th "	Nil.
* 20th "	Nil.
* 21st "	Nil.
* 22nd "	Nil.
* 23rd "	Nil.
* 24th "	Nil.
* 25th "	Nil.
* 27th "	Nil.
* 28th "	Nil.
* 7th February	Nil.
* 8th "	Nil.
7th April	942–970
* 8th "	*Nil.*
9th December	971–1001
1909.	
7th January	1002–1003
25th "	1004–1019
5th April	1020–1043
* 6th "	*Nil.*
9th November	1044–1110

* These were adjourned meetings.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

AT MEETINGS OF

THE COUNCIL OF THE GOVERNOR OF FORT ST. GEORGE FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

VOLUME II.

1. MEETING OF THE 26th JANUARY 1900.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

1 [I] *Question.*—Is Government aware that distress is felt by the agricultural and labouring classes by reason of total or partial failure of dry crops in the Badvel and Madanapalle taluks and considerable portions of Ráyachóti, Kadiri, Pulivendla, Jammalamadugu, Cuddapah and Sidhout taluks of the Cuddapah district?

Will Government be pleased to state the area in the above and other taluks of the district over which failure of such crops has occurred?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The answer to the first clause of the question is in the affirmative. The time of harvest for the late dry crops is hardly yet come; but Government is alive to the fact that a partial or total failure of crop over a considerable area is to be anticipated.

Information is not yet available as to the area over which there has been failure or as to the extent of the failure. Inspection is going on and a detailed report is expected shortly.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

2 [II] *Question.*—Is it a fact that wet crops throughout the district, except in a few favoured tracts, such as under the Kurnool-Cuddapah canal, are failing or have already failed?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—As regards wet crops under rain-fed tanks the answer is in the affirmative. Rice is fortunately not the staple food of the district, and the area on which wet crops have totally failed is believed to be comparatively small.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

3 [III] *Question.*—What are the prices at which the staple food-grains of the district—cholam, ragi and cumbu—sell *at present?* Is it a fact that they are above scarcity rates?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to the Board's season reports published every week in the *Fort St. George Gazette*.

The answer to the second clause of the question is in the affirmative.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

4 [IV] *Question*.—Is it a fact that considerable distress exists among the weaving communities of Proddatur and Jammalamadugu taluks for want of occupation? Will the Government be pleased to adopt early measures to organize relief for this class?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The answer to both questions is in the affirmative.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

5 [V] *Question*.—In view to the extensive failure of dry crops in the district, will the Government be pleased to adopt early measures to gauge accurately its extent and the particular tracts in which they have so failed and obtain accurate accounts for future use when necessary?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The question is answered in the affirmative. All available officers are at present engaged in crop inspection.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

6 [VI] *Question*.—In view to the present condition of the district, will the Government be pleased to order the suspension of kist collections in the affected tracts?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—On the receipt of the report on the crop inspections now in progress Government will be prepared to make such concessions as may then be found necessary. Over the greater part of the district it is certain that no suspension of kist collection is required.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

7 [VII] *Question*.—Will the Government be pleased to give special consideration to the system of granting loans to agriculturists in all the affected districts for the purpose of sinking wells as a protection against famine, and issue orders to all Revenue officials in such districts to explain the benefits of the system to ryots and induce them to take loans?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The steps suggested by the Honourable Member have been already taken. The rules for granting loans to agriculturists have been long and fully advertised in every district. In Cuddapah the number of loans taken during the last ten years exceeds 7,800 and the amount still outstanding and due to Government exceeds 2·6 lakhs.

Three reports of the Board of Revenue on the state of the Cuddapah district and on the measures proposed to be taken to alleviate distress will be placed on the table, together with the orders of the Government thereon. The papers will be found to contain much of the information desired by the Honourable Member.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

8 [VIII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to avail themselves of the present season in the Cuddapah district to push on to completion the Chopad project in the Proddatur taluk, the Peddapasupula project in the Jammalamadugu taluk and other works of irrigation undertaken in former years but left incomplete ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—Revised estimates amounting, respectively, to Rs. 4,22,000 and Rs. 24,200 for the Chopad and Peddapasupula projects have just been sanctioned for execution. Steps will be taken by the Superintending Engineer, III Circle, to push on with other incomplete works of former years.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

9 [IX] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to consider and give effect to the scheme of constructing a railway connecting Kalikiri on the South Indian Railway with Ráyachóti, a taluk head-quarter station, situated almost in the centre of the Cuddapah district ? Will advantage be taken of the present season to complete the earth-work of the said line ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Spring :—

Answer.—The line referred to is now under survey, and Government hopes in due course to bring about its construction. The earth-work might possibly be taken up as a famine-relief work should emergency arise.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

10 [X] *Question.*—(*a*) Will Government be pleased to state when it proposes to give effect to the suggestion to establish two experimental farms—one in the northern and the other in the southern half of the Presidency ?

(*b*) Will Government consider the advisability of selecting Gódávari district for one of the farms to be opened ?

(*c*) Have any steps been taken to engage an additional European agriculturist as contemplated in paragraph 78 of the Administration Report for 1898–99 ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The financial difficulty is still the main obstacle to action, and considering the present state of the season Government can hold out no immediate hope of funds being available for agricultural experiment in the current year.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

11 [XI] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it the fact that Deputy Commissioners, who fix the assessment for land revenue, have also the power to hear objections to the rates fixed by them and that an appeal lies to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture, from any decision or order passed by a Deputy Commissioner ?

(*b*) Is Government aware whether inconvenience or want of full confidence in the assessment of land-tax is caused by this system ? If so, will it be pleased to empower Collectors of districts to hear such objections or to prescribe such other procedure as may be proper ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) Yes ; Deputy Commissioners have power to hear objections and the appeal lies to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement.

(*b*) The Government is not aware that the system causes inconvenience or want of full confidence in the assessment. The officer whose business it is to fix the assessment of a field is obviously the first person who should consider any objections which may be raised to the proposed assessment. The Collector may or may not be a trained settlement officer, and moreover has plenty of other work to do.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

12 [XII] *Question.*—(*a*) Will Government be pleased to consider the desirability of allowing those that raise plantain gardens to apply for water *twice* in the year as in the case of cocoanut gardens ?

(*b*) What were the reasons which induced Government to sanction the levy of *double* water-rate in the case of "turmeric" since 1896 ? In view of the fact that it does not require more than two floodings, will Government be pleased to restore the single rate ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Honourable Member's reference to applying for water twice in the year in the case of cocoanut gardens is not understood. Plantain gardens are charged double-crop water rate, and the cultivator may use as much water as he likes without any second application.

(*b*) In 1896 the Government sanctioned the treatment of turmeric as double crop for the purposes of charging water rate, because it was reported that the crop on an average took as much water as would raise two paddy crops. From further detailed enquiries made in all districts it appears that turmeric stands on the ground generally from eight to ten months in the year and requires water for four to ten months. The Government is not prepared to modify the charge now made for water in the case of this crop.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

13 [XIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it the case that Government has ordered that unoccupied land in the Kistna delta should be assigned, subject to payment of a consolidated wet assessment in every case in which the Public Works Department certifies that water is available for irrigation ? What were the reasons which led Government to frame this rule ? What is the extent of unoccupied land in the Kistna delta ? What will be the effect of this rule on the extension of cultivation ? Were the local officers consulted in the matter, or did the Board of Revenue recommend the said rule ?

(*b*) In the light of the remarks made by Mr. G. T. Walch, noted in the margin, regarding the insufficiency of water in the Kistna delta in certain seasons of the year, does Government consider that it is in a position to assure a certain and adequate supply of water in the case of lands to be newly brought under cultivation ?

"The total quantity of water brought down the river in every year, or even that in every irrigation season, is certainly much in excess of what would suffice for every acre commanded, but it must be remembered, that now by far the greater part of the water necessarily passes in floods over the anicut and flows uselessly to the sea, whilst not infrequently towards the end of the irrigation season, the river falls below the level required to give a full supply, under existing arrangements, even to the area already reached. . . . It would obviously be unwise to encourage during periods of superabundance of water the cultivation of a larger area of wet crops than could be brought to maturity by the scantier supply available later on."—Page 152, The Engineering Works of the Kistna delta.

(*c*) Is Government aware that such unoccupied land cannot be cultivated *continuously* with wet crops ; that it will not pay the expense of *wet* cultivation in most cases ; that it is generally applied for with a view to use it for purposes of pasture ; and that the levy of a consolidated wet assessment in such cases will be felt as a great hardship and will tend to check the extension of cultivation ?

(*d*) Will Government be pleased to consider the desirability of restoring the old practice of assigning unoccupied land, subject to payment of only "dry" assessment, or of at least modifying the recent rule so as to leave ample discretion to the local officers to deal with each case on its merits ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The rule is that unoccupied waste, which can in the opinion of the Collector be regularly irrigated, should on assignment be registered as *wet* and charged with the appropriate consolidated wet assessment. This

rule is based on the general revenue practice in this presidency. The extent of unoccupied land in the Kistna delta available for occupation is about 95,000 acres. The Government sees no reason to suppose that the rule will in any way retard the extension of cultivation. The rule was proposed by the Deputy Commissioner in his Settlement Scheme Report, and no objection to it was taken either by the Collector or the Board of Revenue when offering their remarks on the scheme.

(*b*) The question whether a certain and adequate supply of water can be assured to lands newly to be brought under cultivation is one to be decided in the circumstances of each case.

(*c*) The Government is not aware that any of the statements in this clause of the question are correct.

(*d*) The Government is not prepared to modify the rule in question, which gives the Collector sufficient discretion.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

14 [XIV] *Question.*—Have any cases occurred in this presidency in which individual cultivators holding fields in the midst of an expanse of wet cultivation have claimed exemption from water-rate (when the supply is beneficial and sufficient), on the plea that the water is forced on them? If so, in what districts did they occur? What is the total extent of land and the amount of revenue involved? What portion of the land involved is Jeroyati, and what portion inam, or belongs to permanently-settled estates?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—During the last few years many suits have been brought against Government to contest the charge of water-rate on the ground that the water was not applied for. The plaintiffs have generally asserted that the supply of water was not beneficial or had not been used. Most of the suits have come from Gódávari and Kistna. Government does not possess the details as to the extent of land or the amount of revenue involved, nor in the opinion of Government would the compilation of such statistics serve any useful purpose.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

15 [XV] *Question.*—(*a*) What is the extent of land irrigated by "involuntary flow" in the Kistna delta? Is Government aware that in several cases in which cultivators were charged in the said delta for such "involuntary flow" applications for water were made, which were refused by the Public Works Department, on the ground of precarious supply? Have any cases of a like nature arisen under any other irrigation system or systems in this presidency; if so, what is the extent of land and amount of revenue involved?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to state whether any and what action was taken on the suggestion contained in the Kistna Collector's letter to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, dated 26th February 1897, No. 485, to provide the lands affected by such "involuntary flow" with a proper supply of irrigation, and with what result?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) Unless the Honourable Member will define what he means by "involuntary flow", the Government cannot undertake to answer this question.

(*b*) An officer of the Public Works Department has recently been deputed to the Kistna district to have maps and lists prepared of the irrigated and irrigable lands and an estimate for such remodelling or extension of the canals and channels as may be found necessary.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

16 [XVI] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the imperfect drainage in the Gódávari and Kistna deltas, in respect of which "the Committee appointed in 1878 under the Famine Commission to inquire into the management of irrigation works in Madras" made the following remarks in its report :—

"In the systems of the Gódávari and Kistna deltas, a good deal still remains to be done, such as . . . . works of provision for cross drainage by which serious mischief is done year after year. It is highly desirable that these irrigation works, which are so pronounced a success, should be completed." ?

(*b*) Is Government aware that the drainage is still incomplete and that the Collector of Gódávari remarked, in his remarks on the scheme report for the resettlement of the Gódávari district, that "without doubt 10 lakhs could well be spent" on the improvement of drainage in the Gódávari Western delta alone ?

(*c*) Will Government propose to take any and what action in the matter ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—Up to end of 1897–98, the outlay on the drainage works of the Gódávari delta system amounted to Rs. 8·23 lakhs. Since then estimates amounting to Rs. 2·17 lakhs have been sanctioned for drainage improvements, of which Rs. 1·30 lakhs will be spent in the Gódávari Western delta. The outlay on drainage works of the Kistna delta system up to end of 1898–99 amounted to Rs. 16·45 lakhs. Estimates amounting to Rs. 8,900 have been sanctioned during the current year for new drains. Further estimates for completing the drainage system are shortly expected.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

17 [XVII] *Question.*—Has the attention of Government been drawn to the remarks, noted in the margin, made by Mr. Clerk in paragraph 59 of his scheme report on the re-settlement of the Gódávari district ? Does Government contemplate to take any, and if so what, steps to improve the irrigation in the Central delta ?

"The Central delta has been neglected and the original scheme for distributing the anicut supply does not seem to have been fully executed. The general complaint in some villages is that a sufficient supply of water to enable the ryots to commence cultivation is not sent down the channels till the latter part of July. This makes the season late and the consequence is that, when the heavy rains of October and November set in, the paddy plants are not strong enough to withstand the heavy downpour and temporary submersion . . . I understand that a considerable sum of money is to be spent in improving irrigation."

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The total area proposed in the completion estimates to be irrigated in the Central delta was 122,420 acres, the area actually irrigated in 1898–99 being 111,913 acres for first crop. All the works sanctioned in the completion estimates have been completed besides many other works of improvement not contemplated when those estimates were prepared. Designs for further improvements are being received from time to time. The statement that a sufficient supply of water to enable the ryots to commence cultivation is not sent down the channels until the latter part of July is incorrect. There is sometimes not enough water to fill the canals in June, but they are always run full in July. The demand however in the early part of the season exceeds their capacity and it is difficult to get water down to the ends of the distributaries. Efforts are being made to remove the impediments to equal distribution in the early part of the season.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

18 [XVIII] *Question.*—Is Government aware that there is land available for an extension of irrigation of about 28,000 acres in the Polavaram island in the Gódávari delta ; if so, will it be pleased to ascertain whether it will be practicable to irrigate the said area by water taken across the Vriddha Gódávari by means of an aqueduct or a bank ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Government is aware that there is land in the Polavaram island which might possibly be irrigated by water taken across the Vriddha-Gódávari by means of an aqueduct, and the site of the Annampalli lock has been fixed with reference to this possibility; but it is considered expedient to let this question lie over until all the lands commanded by existing works are irrigated and the drainage works completed.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

19 [XIX] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the special reasons, if any, for the continuance of the Cantonment Magistrate's Court at St. Thomas' Mount, when such courts at Trichinopoly, Wellington, Poonamallee and Pallávaram have all been abolished within recent years?

(*b*) What is the cost incurred at present on the said court on account of magistrate's allowance, office and constabulary both for the court and the sub-jail at St. Thomas' Mount?

(*c*) Is there any difficulty and, if so, will the Government be pleased to state the same in distributing the business of the said court among the regular Magistrates' Courts of the district, viz., the 1st-class Deputy Magistrate, the 2nd-class Magistrate and the Bench Court of Saidapet, and transferring the sub-jail prisoners of St. Thomas' Mount to the sub-jail at Saidapet, and the small number of small cause suits filed and disposed of in the said Cantonment Court to the District Munsif's Court at Poonamallee, in view to the fact that both Saidapet and Poonamallee are situated quite close to St. Thomas' Mount?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Honourable Member is mistaken in supposing that there are no Cantonment Magistrates at Trichinopoly and Wellington. Pallávaram has always been included within the jurisdiction of the Cantonment Magistrate at St. Thomas' Mount. The Cantonment Magistrates' Court at Poonamallee was abolished in 1896, as the population of the cantonment being small, it was found that the magisterial work could conveniently be performed by the Sub-Magistrate of that station. No such arrangement is possible at St. Thomas' Mount.

(*b*) The Government has no information at hand as to the cost of the constabulary attached to the court and the sub-jail at St. Thomas' Mount. A sum of about Rs. 10,500 is charged annually to Provincial revenues on account of the Cantonment Magistrate and his office establishment.

(*c*) The Cantonment Magistrate's Court being maintained under the orders of the Government of India, this Government cannot undertake to answer this question.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

20 [XX] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of villages in each district of the presidency in which section 9 of Madras Act I of 1889 has been put into force and the provisions of the Act about the formation of Bench Courts for the trial of small suits given effect to?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of suits disposed of during the year 1898 by Bench Courts in the several districts to which section 9 has been applied as distinguished from suits decided by the village munsif alone in such districts?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) Clauses (2) to (8) of section 9 of Act I of 1889 have been extended to 227 villages or groups of villages in this presidency, and it is presumed that the provisions of the Act about the formation of Bench Courts have been given effect to in all these localities—

Anantapur district	11
South Arcot "	23
Bellary district	15
Chingleput district	17
Coimbatore "	22
Kistna district	51
Madura "	8
Nellore "	41
Nilgiri "	5
Tinnevelly district	17
Vizagapatam "	17
Total ...	227

(*b*) The Government has no information as to the number of suits decided by Bench Courts during 1898.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

21 [XXI] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to issue directions for embodiment in the annual report on the administration of civil justice a statement showing suits disposed of by Bench Courts compared with those disposed of by the village munsif sitting alone in districts where the rules about Bench Courts are in force ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Government has already issued the necessary instructions to this end.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

22 [XXII] *Question.*—(*a*) In view to the fact that village munsifs, appointed since the passing of Madras Act III of 1895, should all possess necessary educational qualifications as required by rules, will the Government be pleased to cause enquiry to be made and to state why, in the districts of Bellary, Anantapur, Cuddapah, Kurnool, Nellore, Ganjám and Vizagapatam, comparatively very few village munsifs exercised the civil jurisdiction conferred under Act I of 1889 ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that an impression prevails in some of the Telugu districts that village munsifs are free to agree or refuse to try suits under Madras Act I of 1889 just as they please and, if so, will Government be pleased to issue orders to disabuse people of this impression ?

(*c*) In view to the growing popularity of village courts formed under Madras Act I of 1889 by reason of the cheap and speedy disposal of small cases going before them, as testified to by the High Court in their report on the administration of Civil Justice for the year 1898 (paragraphs 5, 13 and 28), will the Government be pleased to adopt measures to encourage village munsifs to try such suits ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—A report on the subject will be called for.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

23 [XXIII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to call for reports from all Collectors in the presidency as to the feasibility of extending the provisions of section 9 of Madras Act I of 1889 and adopt early measures for constituting Bench Courts, wherever it is possible, in view to the educational value of such courts and the confidence they will infuse into parties ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Government is not prepared to accept the Honourable Member's suggestion. It will however take into consideration the extension of the provisions of section 9 of the Act to any local area on receipt of a recommendation to that effect from the local officers.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

24 & 25. *Questions.*—**24.** [XXIV].—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the circumstances which necessitated the reduction in the strength of the elected councillors in the Vellore Municipality from 15 to 7, and the withdrawal of the privilege of the Council to elect their own Chairman in the said Municipality, as reported in the *Hindu* newspaper of the 11th January 1900 ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to place on the table the papers connected with the subject ?

25 [XXV].—(*a*) What are the charges against Mr. A. C. Seshagiri Row, late Chairman of the Vellore Municipality, which led to his removal from the offices both of Chairman and Councillor of the said Municipality, as stated in the *Hindu* newspaper of the 11th January 1900 ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to place on the table the papers connected with his removal from the said offices ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

24, **25** } *Answer.*—The Honourable Member is referred to G.O., No. 1751 M., dated 23rd November 1899, which has been placed on the Editors' Table.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

* **26** [XXVI] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the abkári policy of Government under which the revenue depends upon the number of trees marked for tapping for fermented liquor has affected prejudicially the industry in palm jaggery which is made from unfermented toddy ? * Same as 956, Vol. I, p. 340.

(*b*) Is Government aware that there is a general complaint on that score in the jaggery districts ?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the exports of jaggery from Madras and the outports of the Presidency have decreased from 1,297,855 cwt. in 1893 to 267,569 cwt. in 1898, while the amount of the tree-tax has increased from Rs. 21,40,017 to Rs. 38,68,218 during the same period ?

(*d*) Is such decrease in the exports of jaggery in anywise attributable to the system of raising revenue referred to in clause (*a*) of this question ?

(*e*) If not, is the decrease accountable in any other way ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government has no evidence on which to conclude that the palm jaggery industry has been prejudicially affected by the tree-tax system of toddy administration. The number of trees marked for tapping sweet juice for jaggery has increased since 1892–93 in Malabar and Gódávari, the only two districts until recently where this system has been in force.

(*b*) The Government has received two complaints as to some of the restrictions imposed, but no "general complaint" of the prejudicial effect of the tree-tax system has been made from the jaggery districts.

(*c*) The tree-tax figures furnished by the Honourable Member are correct. Exports by sea and rail from the presidency were 973,700 cwt. in 1892–93, 846,97 5 cwt. in 1897–98 and 664,071 in 1898–99.

(*d*) & (*e*) The decrease in exports has been ascribed to increased local consumption by sugar refiners, distillers and sweetmeat dealers. This explanation derives support from the fact that exports of refined sugar by sea and rail have increased from 142,504 cwt. to 239,005 since 1892–93.

The Hon'ble Mr. Ratnasabhapati Pillai :—

27 [XXVII] *Question.*—Is Government aware that inconvenience is caused by the examination by male Customs officers of the personal apparel and luggage of female passengers proceeding by railway from British limits to Karaikal, Pondicherry and other stations in French territories? If so, will Government be pleased to arrange for the examination being conducted by female assistants?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The personal apparel and luggage of passengers proceeding by railway from British India to French territory is not examined by the Customs officers on the British side. A female searcher is employed to examine women entering British territory from Pondicherry. With regard to customs examination on the French side, it is understood that female searchers are not employed.

The Hon'ble Mr. Ratnasabhapati Pillai :—

28 [XXVIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is there any arrangement in force in the penitentiaries and jails in the City of Madras, and the mofussil districts for the supply of books to the prisoners for reading during their non-working hours?

(*b*) If not, will Government be pleased to arrange for the establishment of libraries for the use of prisoners with suitable books in English and the vernaculars?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—Yes. The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to rules 379 and 920 of the Jail Code.

The Hon'ble Mr. Ratnasabhapati Pillai :—

29 [XXIX] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the publications which have appeared in the following papers on the agricultural condition of the Tanjore district during the current fasli:—

(1) *The Hindu*, dated the 11th January 1900, under the heading of "Terror of Famine in Tanjore."

(2) *The Madras Standard*, dated the 8th January 1900, under the heading of the "Pitiable Predicament of the Tanjore Ryots."

(3) *The South Indian Post* of Negapatam, dated the 6th January 1900, under the leading article headed "Wanted—Remission of kist."

(4) *The South Indian Times* of Kumbakónam, dated the 10th January 1900, under the heading of "Kist Remissions—The First Cry."

(5) *The Sarvajana Mitran* of Kumbakónam, dated the 8th January 1900, under the heading of the "Tanjore District's Crops."

(*b*) Has the Government satisfied itself as regards the general failure of crops in the district and the consequent distress which has begun to be felt by, among other things, a rise in prices, which have already gone up to Rs. 2 per calam of 24 Madras measures of paddy?

(*c*) Has Government received reports from the Collector upon the state of the crops, and the probable amount of remissions of kist, which it will become necessary to grant during the current fasli?

(*d*) If the Collector has furnished an estimate, what is the probable amount of remissions estimated?

(*e*) Has any recommendation been received from the Collector regarding the suspension of the collection of kist, pending the disposal of the applications of the ryots for remission?

(*f*) Has the Government, the Board of Revenue, or the Collector received any representations from the ryots praying for the suspension of the collection of kist, and what orders, if any, have been issued on the subject?

(*g*) Whether Government will be pleased, after satisfying itself, to issue instructions to suspend the collection of kist in the affected parts of the district?

(*h*) Will Government be pleased to issue instructions for the granting of remissions not only in cases where there has been a total loss of crops, but also in cases of partial failure, in which there is only an 8-anna crop and less?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government has now obtained and read the articles referred to except No. (5).

(*b*) From the weekly season reports received by Government it appears that in some parts of the delta the wet crops have been injured by flood and excessive rain, and in others are suffering from inadequate river irrigation and deficient rainfall, but there appears to have been no complete failure of crops except on small scattered areas. The rainfall of the district during the year has been considerably above the average of the last 25 years. The selling price of paddy is approximately that stated by the Honourable Member in his question and this no doubt causes hardship to such of the labouring classes as do not receive a fixed grain wage.

(*c*) & (*d*) The Government has received no special report from the Collector upon the state of the crops. The subject of remissions is under correspondence with the Collector and will receive the consideration of Government.

(*e*) The Government has no information of such a recommendation. The Board of Revenue has power to order a temporary suspension of kist collection when satisfied that the concession is necessary.

(*f*) The Government received three petitions on the subject and they have been transferred to the Board of Revenue for disposal.

(*g*) The Government is not at present prepared to make any pronouncement in the matter.

(*h*) As at present advised Government sees no sufficient reason for any relaxation of the ordinary rules.

The Hon'ble Mr. Ratnasabhapati Pillai :—

30 [XXX] *Question.*—Whether Government will be pleased to furnish the Council with full information regarding the failure of crops in Trichinopoly, Madura, Cuddapah and other districts during the current fasli, and their agricultural outlook in general?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—No special reports have been received by the Government from Trichinopoly or Madura. Reports from Bellary, Anantapur, Cuddapah, Nellore and Kistna have been, with the orders passed thereon, already placed on the Editors' Table. Other reports will similarly be made available in due course.

The Hon'ble Mr. Ratnasabhapati Pillai :—

31 [XXXI] *Question.*—In what districts, according to the present forecast, is famine imminent, and where may the starting of relief works become necessary?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—In many localities the harvest of the late crops is not yet due, and it is still difficult to predict what the ultimate loss of crop may be. All available officers are now generally engaged in crop inspection, and the

Famine Commissioner is touring through the worst tracts. So far as can be at present foreseen the necessity for relief works is likely to be restricted to parts of the Deccan districts and Nellore. The harvests of last year were fortunately bountiful and only a few months ago the prices of food-grains were abnormally low. It is believed that the stocks of grain are sufficient, though these are being at present held up. The situation is being carefully watched.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABAPATI PILLAI :—

32 [XXXII] *Question.*—(*a*) In what districts is Madras Act IV of 1893 (Village Cess Act) in force at present, and at what rate or rates is the cess being levied in the districts in which the Act is in force?

(*b*) Has Government directed recently any increase in the rate, under section 9 of the Act, and, if so, what is the increase and in what districts?

(*c*) If an increase in the rate has been ordered, will Government be pleased to state the reasons which necessitated the increase?

(*d*) What was the collection of the cess per annum at the old rate, and what will be the demand at the enhanced rate (districtwar, if practicable)?

(*e*) Whether under the old rate, there was any deficit in the "Village Service Fund" in defraying the charges of village establishments, and whether under the enhanced rate any surplus is expected in the same fund including contributions by Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Act is in force in all ryotwari villages and major inam grouped with ryotwari villages throughout the presidency except in certain parts of Malabar, Ganjám and Vizagapatam. The cess is levied at present at the rate of 8 pies in every rupee of land assessment and water-tax.

(*b*) With effect from the 1st July next, it is proposed to raise the rate of cess to 9 pies. Under section 9 of the Act this rate will be uniform throughout the area to which the Act applies.

(*c*) *&* (*e*) According to the revised estimates of the current financial year, the Village Service Fund opens with a balance of about 6½ lakhs of rupees and will close with a balance of about 2½ lakhs of rupees. For the next financial year, if the present rate of 8 pies were to be continued throughout the year it is estimated that the fund would on 31st March 1901 show a deficit of nearly 2½ lakhs of rupees. On the supposition that the rate will be raised to 9 pies from 1st July next, it is estimated that the fund will show a balance on 31st March 1901 of a little less than 2 lakhs of rupees. Under section 9 of the Act the rate of cess has to be determined from time to time so that the estimated proceeds shall be as nearly as possible equivalent to half the cost of the village service.

(*d*) The revised estimate of cess collections for the current financial year is Rs. 22·68 lakhs and the budget estimate for next financial year is Rs. 25·38 lakhs.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

33 [XXXIII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state the reasons which led to the appointment of a new Abkári Deputy Commissioner?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—In recent years improved methods of manufacturing country spirits have been largely introduced into this presidency and distilleries established in which European methods to a greater or less extent have been adopted. To supervise and control efficiently the working of the

distilleries the Government deemed it expedient to obtain the services of a trained expert thoroughly acquainted with the chemistry of distillation and informed in the practical and technical details of the measures taken in England for the protection of the excise revenue.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

34 [XXXIV] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state how many distilleries the new Deputy Commissioner has to inspect, and what additional establishment has been entertained, and at what cost?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The duty of the Abkári Deputy Commissioner is to inspect all the distilleries and breweries in the presidency. There are at present fourteen of the former and three of the latter. The additional establishment entertained on this account consists of an Assistant Inspector, one Sub-Inspector and six menials, costing about Rs. 247 a month. Three distillery circles have also been formed, each under an Inspector, assisted by a clerk and four inferior servants, costing in all Rs. 1,233 per mensem.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

35 [XXXV] *Question.*—Is it a fact that the testing of salt and beer, which was hitherto done at the Chemical Examiner's laboratory, is to be transferred to the new Abkári Deputy Commissioner, and that a separate laboratory is to be built for him? If so, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for this arrangement?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Abkári Deputy Commissioner will conduct only departmental analyses, while analyses affecting the trading public will be undertaken as heretofore by the Chemical Examiner. A laboratory has been fitted up for the Abkári Deputy Commissioner in the Board's office; no separate building is to be constructed. The reasons for this arrangement will be found set forth in Board's Proceedings, No. 798, dated 24th February 1899, of which a copy will be furnished to the Honourable Member.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

36 [XXXVI] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state if the new Deputy Commissioner is a certified chemist, and what diploma he has obtained in analytical chemistry?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Abkári Deputy Commissioner holds a first-class diploma in Theoretical and Practical Chemistry from the Royal School of Mines (now Royal College of Sciences), South Kensington.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

37, 38 & 39 *Questions.*—37 [XXXVII].—Will the Government be pleased to state the extent of land under the Gódávari and Kistna delta schemes which was cultivated by direct or indirect flow or percolation of water (not supplied on application or used) during the past five years, but could not be assessed to water-cess by reason of the defective provisions of law as interpreted by the High Court of Madras? The information may be given for each district separately, distinguishing inam and zamindari from Government ryotwari lands?

38. [XXXVIII].—Will the Government be also pleased to state approximately the loss of revenue which resulted from the above cause during the said period of five years?

39 [XXXIX].—Will the Government be pleased to state if inconvenience has been caused in any other districts by the existing state of the law? If so, in which of the districts, and what, if any, is the consequent loss of revenue?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

37, 38, 39 *Answer*.—The Government is not in possession of the desired statistics, and does not think it necessary to compile them. Had the defective state of the law been extensively taken advantage of, the Government would have been forced to undertake the amendment of the Act at an earlier date. The ease with which the payment of water-rate may be evaded has recently become widely known, and the amendment of the law is now being undertaken with a view to avoid prospective loss of revenue. The loss of revenue up to date is believed to have been inconsiderable.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

40 [XL] *Question*.—(*a*) Whether Government has exempted under clause (5) of section 15 of the Police Act (1861) Amendment Act, 1895, any villages, or class, or section of inhabitants in the district of Tinnevelly from the punitive police cess recently imposed?

(*b*) Whether, in the imposition of the cess, any village or villages have been included, in which no disturbances took place, or which took no part in the late riots?

(*c*) Whether there were disturbances in the villages of *Ayan Surandai* and *Zamin Surandai cusbas*, and their suburbs, *Kila Surandai*, *Baugtow Surandai*, *Sivagurunathapuram*, *Varagunaramapuram*, Tenkási taluk, Tinnevelly, or whether they had taken any part in the late riots?

(*d*) If not, what are the reasons for the imposition of the cess in the abovenamed villages?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) No.

(*b*), (*c*) & (*d*) The numbers taking part in the late riots were so large, and the number of rioters whom it has been possible to identify is comparatively so small that it is not possible to return a definite answer to the question as to what villages took part in the riots. All villages subjected to the cess lie within the area which Government considers to be in a disturbed and dangerous state so as to render it expedient that the police force should be increased. Several villages were burnt and looted within a few miles of those specified in question (*c*).

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

41 [XLI] *Question*.—In view of the fact that the civil surgeoncies of *Tellicherry* and *Chingleput* have been recently conferred upon commissioned officers, and with reference to the replies of Government made to my questions Nos. XII, VII and XXXVIII, * dated the 7th April, 6th June and 14th November 1899, respectively, will Government be pleased to make a civil surgeoncy available for a Civil Assistant Surgeon in connection with the arrangement which may be made in filling up the vacancy at Trichinopoly caused by the transfer to the Jail department of the permanent District Medical and Sanitary Officer of that district?

* 829, 857 and 929, Vol. I, pp. 297, 309 and 332 respectively.

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The question will be considered.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

42 [XLII] *Question.*—With reference to the following question * asked by me at the meeting of the 19th December 1899, on the Coimbatore south forest grievances and the reply of Government, will Government be pleased to state the result of the enquiry on the subject ?— * 965, Vol I, p. 343.

(*a*) Whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the article in the issue, dated the 17th December 1898, in the *Vara Varthamani*, a Tamil weekly published at Pollachi (Coimbatore), on the "Coimbatore south forest grievances" and on the ravages committed by herds of wild elephants from the *Anamalais* on cultivation ?

(*b*) Whether, when the ryots of *Sethumadai* village (Pollachi) petitioned the Collector in September of last year for protection, they were advised to plant only castor-oil plants in the immediate vicinity of the forest, under the belief that a belt of castor a hundred yards wide would keep elephants out of the cholam beyond ?

(*c*) Whether the ryots have brought to the notice of the District authorities that the castor plants afford no protection against the inroads of the elephants, that these plants also continue to be destroyed by the latter, and that their grievances still remain unredressed ?

(*d*) Whether any remissions were granted to the ryots during the last fasli as claimed by them on account of the destruction of their crops by the elephants ?

(*e*) Whether any loss of human lives has been caused last year by the descent of these elephants into the outskirts of the villages ?

(*f*) Whether Government will be pleased to issue orders to the Forest Department to prevent the descent of the wild elephants from the hills into the plains below by the excavation of trenches at the outer limits of the reserved forests, and by the entertainment of shikaries to be on the watch at those limits ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government has perused the article.

(*b*) The ryots of Sethumadai, a hamlet containing about half a dozen huts, did so petition the Collector on the 13th September 1898 and were advised as stated in the question.

(*c*) The answer to this part of the question is in the negative. No subsequent complaints have been received of destruction of crops by elephants.

(*d*) The answer to this part of the question is also in the negative.

(*e*) A cooly woman was killed at the foot of Mount Stuart in 1898. It was supposed that she was killed by a solitary tusker.

(*f*) The Government is not prepared to issue orders as suggested.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

43 [XLIII] *Question.*—Has the attention of Government been drawn to the fact that the increase of assessment in the present revision settlement on the dry portion of the deltaic part of the Bezwada taluk is 117 per cent.? Is there any precedent for such an increase ? Has Government ascertained what the effect of such increase will be ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—Yes, this is the increase in the delta villages of the Bezwada taluk according to the scheme of resettlement sanctioned by the Government. There have been cases in previous settlements where the percentage of increase in particular tracts of a district has been as great or greater. Special reasons exist in all these cases ; and the Honourable Member will find those applying to the dry lands of the Bezwada taluk explained in the scheme report, a copy of which with the orders thereon (G.O., No. 494, dated 27th July 1899) can be obtained from the Superintendent of the Government Press.

2. MEETING OF THE 30TH MARCH 1900.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

44 [I] *Question.*—(*a*) Have the Local Boards in the district of Tanjore submitted to Government proposals to abolish the "Board Hindu Primary schools" under their management with effect from 1st April 1900 and replace them by schools on the "fixed grant system"?

(*b*) If so, what are the reasons assigned for taking this step?

(*c*) Before they resolved to transfer the "Board Primary schools" to the "fixed grant system," was it ascertained that private agencies would be forthcoming to take over the institutions and work them under the "fixed grant system"?

(*d*) Has Government received any representation complaining of the abolition of these schools, and pointing out the impracticability of the same being maintained as private institutions under the grant-in-aid system?

(*e*) Whether Government will be pleased to invite the Boards concerned to reconsider their proposals before sanctioning the same?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The proposals are stated to have been made in accordance with the recommendation of the officers of the Educational Department

(*c*) The Government has no information on the subject.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) This has been done.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

45 [II] *Question.*—(*a*) With reference to my question No. X * asked at the Council meeting of the 19th December 1899 regarding the non-roofing of the wooden over-bridges at the junction stations at Tiruválúr and Máyavaram on the South Indian Railway, and the reply of Government to the effect that there are numerous similar structures all over India without roofs, is Government aware that the wooden over-bridges at Arkonam and Erode have been provided with roofs?

* 955, Vol. I, p. 340.

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to state what other wooden over-bridges on the railways in this Presidency have not been roofed?

(*c*) Whether there are wooden over-bridges on railways in the other Provinces of India which have not been roofed, and if so, will Government be pleased to name them?

(*d*) Whether in view of the intense suffering caused by the heat of the roofless wooden over-bridges at Tiruválúr and Máyavaram junction stations (South Indian Railway) to native females in particular who do not wear shoes, Government will be pleased to reconsider its answer made on the 19th December 1899?

The Hon'ble Mr. Spring :—

Answer.—The matter is not considered to be of such importance to the travelling public as to necessitate the interference of Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

46 [III] *Question.*—(*a*) Whether income-tax is levied on pensions paid in Native States such as Cochin, etc., to the authorized agents of the pensioners of those States residing in British territories, when such pensioners are unable to proceed to the Native States to receive their pensions in person ?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the latest orders of your Excellency's Government, and that of the Government of India ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer to this clause of the question is in the affirmative.

(*b*) A copy of G.O., No. 718, dated the 25th November 1898, will be laid on the table. No further orders from the Government of India on the subject have been received.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

47 [IV] *Question.*—(*a*) Whether the Muhammadan Board schools in the villages of Ervadi, Vettalai Mandapam, Puthuvalasai and Sundarapandiyan under the control of the Taluk Board of Ramnad (Madura) were abolished in 1898, in spite of the objections of the Director of Public Instruction ?

(*b*) Whether in the same year thirteen Hindu Primary Board schools were also abolished by the same Taluk Board, and whether this step also was taken by it in spite of the objections raised by the Director of Public Instruction ?

(*c*) Whether in the place of the schools abolished other schools had been started, and if so, whether the new schools are found to be efficient ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Government has no information on the subject. A report will be called for from the President of the District Board.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

48 [V] *Question.*—(*a*) Whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the letters which have appeared in the *South Indian Mail*, of Madura, dated the 27th March 1899 and 22nd January 1900, under the headings of a "Disastrous pastime" and "Jallikattu again" ?

(*b*) Whether it is a fact that, as stated in the first of the above letters, the Sessions Judge of Madura and the High Court of Madras remarked in their judgments in the *Kannivalasupatti* murder case that the practice of *jallikattu* should be stopped ?

(*c*) Whether in view of the serious risks caused to human life, which are enumerated in the above letters, any steps have been taken by the district authorities of Madura to put a stop to this practice ?

(*d*) Will Government be pleased to state what steps it proposes to take in the matter ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government has now perused the letters referred to.

(*b*) So far as Government can ascertain, the statement referred to is not correct.

(*c*) No, but enquiries are being made by the District Magistrate as to the accidents which are stated to have occurred on the recent occasions referred to in the letters in question.

(*d*) The Government does not consider that any action on its part is called for.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

49 [VI] *Question.*—(*a*) With reference to my question No. XXVI * asked at the meeting of the Council dated the 26th January current and the answer of Government thereto, I beg to invite attention to the marginally-quoted observations of the Board of Revenue made in its report on the administration of Abkári revenue for 1898–99 and ask whether the revised rules on the subject of tapping for sweet toddy, published at page 1211 of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated the 26th September 1899, have not failed to redress the grievances complained of by jaggery manufacturers and tappers of sweet toddy ?

* 26 *supra*, p. 9.

"The system under which free licenses are issued for tapping trees for sweet toddy has been in force in Gódávari and Malabar since 1892, and was extended to the excise tracts of the South Canara district and to the Madras Town Circle on the 1st October 1898. The object of the rules was chiefly to safeguard the revenue derived from fermented toddy, but they are reported to have failed to secure the desired end and to have been besides a source of much friction and many malpractices. Complaints of their unnecessary rigor have been made both by jaggery manufacturers and tappers of sweet toddy, and their abrogation on the West Coast at any rate has been repeatedly urged on the Board. The subject is one on which there are many and conflicting opinions ; in June last the Board submitted proposals, tending to relax the existing rules in certain respects which, with certain modifications, were approved by Government, and will be given effect to from or after 1st October 1899."

(*b*) With reference to revised rule 2 of the rules applicable to Gódávari and Tinnevelly, viz., "In these districts licenses will, on application, be issued for drawing sweet toddy from trees in selected topes, such topes not being ordinarily recognized sources of supply to any toddy shop or likely to be required by any fermented toddy-drawer," will Government be pleased to take into its consideration whether the effect of such a rule is not to restrict the scope for the manufacture of jaggery within narrow limits and, if so, modify it so as to place the jaggery industry at least on a footing of equality with toddy-making ?

(*c*) Is it a fact that in the district of Tinnevelly a large number of sweet-toddy tappers have within the last few years given up their profession and left for Ceylon, Rangoon and other places, in consequence of criminal prosecutions to which they had been subjected under the Abkári law, and has any representation been made to Government on this matter ?

(*d*) Is it a fact that in Tinnevelly the palmyra trees tapped for sweet toddy are assessed separately, while the lands on which they stand are also assessed, and if so, whether Government sees any reason to revise the assessment ?

(*e*) With reference to clause (*b*) of this question, is it a fact that the District officers of the Abkári department in Gódávari have made their own subsidiary rules that separate blocks should be set apart for the tapping of sweet or jaggery toddy, and that villages which tap for jaggery ought to go in for at least 500 trees each ?

(*f*) With reference to the fact that, whereas 15,683 tons of jaggery were exported by sea from Gódávari in 1897–98, only 5,446 tons were exported from the same district in the following year (paragraph 76 of the Board's Abkári administration report for 1898–99), will Government be pleased to cause an enquiry to be made into the causes of this remarkable decrease ?

(*g*) Will Government be pleased to consider the desirability of revising the rules referred to in clause (*a*) of this question in view to removing all restrictions in the matter of tapping for sweet or jaggery toddy, and placing the industry on a more prosperous footing ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The revised rules referred to by the Honourable Member have been in force only since October last in the Madras Town Circle and in the South Canara and Malabar districts, and since January 1900 in the Gódávari and Tinnevelly districts. They have been working smoothly in the former tracts ; in the latter some initial difficulty has been experienced in introducing them. Considering the short period during which they have been under trial, it is not possible to say as yet whether they have, or have not, failed to redress the grievances complained of by jaggery manufacturers and tappers of sweet toddy.

(*b*) The rule referred to is in force in Gódávari and Tinnevelly. The object of framing such a rule was not to limit the scope for the manufacture of jaggery but to concentrate jaggery-tapping, so that the

interference of the preventive force with such operations might be minimized as far as possible consistently with due regard to revenue interests. In carrying out the system it will not be practicable to consult the interests of every individual, but it is believed that, on the whole, the system will be beneficial both to the jaggery and fermented toddy trades.

(c) The Government has no information as to the alleged emigration of sweet-toddy tappers, nor has any representation been made to it on the subject. In some petitions complaining of the sweet toddy rules, which were introduced in January last, general allegations to this effect have been put forward, but nothing in the shape of evidence or statistics has been supplied. There has been a steady decrease, of late years, in the number of reported offences against the toddy revenue in Tinnevelly, the number of offences under illicit manufacture of toddy having fallen from 1,358 in 1896 to 782 in 1898; and it is therefore, *primâ facie*, improbable that the enforcement of the law has compelled the tappers to resort to emigration in order to avoid it. The tapping community doubtless partake in the emigration to Ceylon, which is characteristic of the district. The Government has no reason to think that the production of jaggery in Tinnevelly has been limited by the Abkári Act; the delay in starting it this year is chiefly due to late spathing of the palmyras owing to drought, and to an agitation founded on ignorance of the new rules.

(d) In respect of palmyras which stand on a ryot's holding and are his property the tree-tax has been consolidated with the land assessment and the trees are not separately assessed. A separate tree-tax is leviable on palmyras which do not belong to the pattadar of the land on which they stand and on palmyras growing on Government waste or poramboke lands.

The Government has no proposals before it for an alteration of the existing system.

(e) It is the fact that rules have been made to the effect stated. The formation of separate blocks for sweet toddy and fermented toddy tapping is an essential part of the system now being introduced and the restriction referred to in the question has been found necessary in order to ensure that the applications for trees are genuine and not merely intended to annoy and crowd out those interested in fermented toddy tapping and responsible for its revenue to Government.

(f) The Government does not consider that any special enquiry into the matter is necessary. The Honourable Member will see, from the statement on page 28 of the Board's Administration Report for 1898–99, that the number of trees licensed to be tapped for sweet toddy in Gódávari rose from 182,381 in 1897–98 to 229,815 in the next year. In the face of these figures the Government is unable to offer any other explanation than that given in paragraph 76 of the same report that the fall in the export of jaggery by sea must be attributed to the fact that a large part of the jaggery manufactured went inland or was locally consumed. The erection of a distillery at Samalkota in the district has largely enhanced the local demand for jaggery and may stop export entirely.

(g) It is the desire of the Government to afford all reasonable facilities for jaggery tapping and for the development of the jaggery industry, and to do away with all restrictions that time and experience may show to be unnecessary, prejudicial or irksome. The rules referred to by the Honourable Member have been framed with this object, and will be revised, if necessary, after they have been given a fair trial. In providing for the free tapping of sweet toddy it is necessary to prevent the illicit production of fermented toddy and to secure the revenue which is derived from the latter.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

50 [VII] *Question.*—(*a*) Have there been unpaid honorary village munsifs exercising judicial functions, civil and criminal, in the zamindari tracts, entire inam villages and shrotriems, etc., in this presidency, and will Government be pleased to state their number districtwar?

(*b*) If so, how long has this system been in force, and with what results?

(*c*) Has Government decided to abolish the system of honorary village munsifs, and have any orders accordingly been issued recently, and whether such honorary village munsifs have been directed to hand over charge of their offices to the salaried village munsifs of the adjoining *ayan* villages?

(*d*) If so, will Government be pleased to state the reasons which influenced it in taking this step?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) & (*b*) In zamindari tracts and inam villages, village munsifs exercising civil functions under Madras Act I of 1889 are ordinarily but not invariably heads of villages who are generally in receipt of emoluments in land or fees allowed either by Government or by the proprietors. This system has been in force from 1816, when Regulation IV of 1816 was passed. The number of unpaid munsifs in each district cannot be stated without calling for a special report which Government is not prepared to do.

(*c*) & (*d*) Government has passed no orders modifying the system described in the answer just given. In Tanjore, several whole inam villages have been grouped with adjoining ryotwari villages for purposes of village administration under section 7 of Madras Act IV of 1893, and this entails reduction of the separate establishments of the inam villages. Steps are being taken to introduce chapters III and IV of Madras Act II of 1894 into proprietary estates when heads of villages who are *ex-officio* village munsifs will receive fixed salaries.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

51 [VIII] *Question.*—With reference to the marginally-quoted circular of the East Bengal Railway, will Government be pleased to take into consideration the desirability of similar rules being introduced on the railways within its jurisdiction?

"Travelling ticket checkers are advised that they have no concern with passengers in female carriages. Ticket-checkers are forbidden either to check the tickets of passengers in these carriages or to pass along the foot-boards of these carriages when the train is in motion."

The Hon'ble Mr. Spring :—

Answer.—Government is informed that rules similar to that quoted are about to be adopted on the Southern Mahratta and East Coast Railways.

On the Madras and South Indian Railways, ticket-checkers are never required to travel along the foot-boards of trains in motion, nor are they permitted to enter carriages reserved for females.

No action therefore, on the part of Government, seems necessary.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

52 [IX] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the Calicut-Cannanore Railway work has been suspended, and, if so, under what circumstances?

(*b*) Has Government received any representation on the subject from the people of Malabar, and is it in a position to state when the work is likely to be resumed?

The Hon'ble Mr. Spring :—

Answer.—Ample funds have now become available for expenditure upon the Calicut-Cannanore Railway.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

53 [X] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that, since the introduction into the district of Tinnevelly of the revised rules on the subject of tapping for sweet-toddy, the drawers throughout the district have declined to take out the licenses prescribed in the rules and have struck work generally ?

(*b*) Are the owners of the palmyra trees suffering in consequence and has Government received any representations on the subject ?

(*c*) Whether the loss to the district during the present season, as a result of the strike, is between 80 and 100 lakhs of rupees worth of jaggery, which is the average annual output ?

(*d*) What is the approximate number of sweet-toddy drawers in the district of Tinnevelly, and how are these people earning their livelihood after the strike ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) There has been no general strike. The toddy drawers in the south of the district objected at first to take out licenses and to set about work and several tapped without license. But their attitude has, it is believed, generally changed when the rules were explained and understood, and, according to the latest reports, licenses have been applied for for 736,278 trees. The number of trees usually tapped for sweet-toddy is not known.

(*b*) Representations have been made to Government on the subject, but the Government sees no reason at the present moment why either the tapper or the owner should be suffering in consequence of the operation of the rules.

(*c*) As sweet-toddy tapping is in progress, the average annual output is not likely to be affected. The value thereof is not known.

(*d*) The approximate number of sweet-toddy drawers is not known. There is no existing strike and it is not understood that the drawers have abandoned their profession.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

54 [XI] *Question.*—(*a*) With reference to clauses (*c*) and (*d*) of my question No. XXIX * asked at the meeting of the Council of the 26th January last and the reply of Government thereto, will it be pleased to furnish information now, regarding the failure of crops in Tanjore, total and partial, and the probable amount of remissions of kist estimated ?

* 29 *supra*, p. 10.

(*b*) With reference to clause (*g*) of the same question and the answer to it, is Government now in a position to state what instructions have been issued regarding the suspension of kist in the affected parts of the district ?

(*c*) With reference to clause (*h*) of the same question asking whether Government will be pleased to issue instructions for the granting of remissions not only in cases where there has been a total loss of crops, but also in cases of partial failure, in which there is only an eight-anna crop and less and the answer of Government to it that as then advised it saw no sufficient reason for the relaxation of the ordinary rules, will Government be pleased to state if any instructions in the matter in the lines of the question have been since issued ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) Since the date of the last reply † in this Council, the Government has received no further information on the subject.

† *Ibid.*

(*b*) Neither the Government nor the Board of Revenue have issued any instructions regarding the suspension of land revenue in Tanjore, but it is understood that the Collector has, pending jamabandi, under the general authority vested in him, suspended the collection of wet assessment in cases in which it is practically certain to be remitted.

(*c*) The answer to the question is in the negative.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

* 963 vol. I, p. 342. 55 [XII] *Question.*—With reference to my question No. XVIII * asked at the meeting of the Council held on the 19th December 1899 regarding the location of the head-quarters of the Pattukkóttai (Tanjore) division at Pattukkóttai instead of at Tanjore, and the reply of Government that the Collector's opinion would be obtained, will Government be pleased to state what decision, if any, has been arrived at ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Government concurs with the Collector and the Board that it is not expedient under existing arrangements to locate the Divisional Officer of Pattukkóttai at Pattukkóttai Town.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

56 [XIII] *Question.*—Considering the comparative smallness of Chatrapur with only a population of about 3,000, and its distance of about 10 or 12 miles from Berhampur, the head-quarters of the district of Ganjám, where a District Medical and Sanitary Officer and a Civil Assistant Surgeon are posted, will Government be pleased to take into consideration the desirability of transferring the Civil Surgeoncy of Chatrapur to Tuticorin or any other town of equal importance ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Government does not consider it desirable to make the change suggested by the Honourable Member.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

57 [XIV] *Question.*—(*a*) Will Government be pleased to call for information on the following points in connection with the village of Losarigutlapadu in the Gódávari Western delta, and to lay the same on the table when received :—

(1) the entire ayacut of the village;

(2) the extent of forest reserve ;

(3) the extent of grazing ground allotted to the village ;

(4) the extent of land covered by the salt creek and other channels ;

(5) the extent of assessed waste ;

(6) the extent of unassessed waste ;

(7) the extent under ryot's occupation ;

(8) the extent of land paying water-cess ;

(9) name of the source of irrigation ;

(10) distance of the irrigation source to the village ;

(11) description of the crops raised on the area on which water-cess is levied ;

(12) population.

(*b*) Did the cultivators voluntarily apply for water or were they charged penal water-rates before they made such applications ? If so, in what year or years were such penal rates levied and from what year did they commence to apply for water ?

(*c*) Is the whole or any portion of the area charged with water-cess capable of irrigation by direct flow or by lift ? At what rate or rates is the water cess levied on the said area ?

(*d*) Is Government aware that the drainage water around the village is saline and unsuited for purposes of irrigation?

(*e*) Have the villagers petitioned the Revenue and Public Works Department authorities that the lands on which the water-cess is levied are not liable for the cess, and if so, with what result?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Government has no information in regard to the various matters referred to in the question; nor does it see sufficient reason to call upon the Collector to supply the voluminous statistics required or to report on the other points specified without some assurance that a substantial grievance exists in respect of which the ryots of the village have addressed the consituted authorities and failed to obtain the redress to which they deem they are entitled.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

58 [XV] *Question*.—(*a*) What is the extent of the land referred to in paragraphs 1 and 3 of the letter of the Collector of Kistna to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, dated 25th February 1897, embodied in Board's Proceedings, No. 143, dated 5th May 1897, as being charged "for what is ordinarily called 'involuntary flow'" in the Kistna delta, and what portion thereof is to be assessed to a consolidated wet rate in the re-settlement to be introduced during the current fasli? Is Government aware that, in several cases referred to by the Collector, applications made for water for irrigation by the cultivators were rejected on the ground of precarious supply?

(*b*) Have any cases of such "involuntary flow" arisen in the Gódávari delta or under any other irrigation system?

(*c*) What is the total extent of such land, if any, in this presidency and the amount of revenue involved?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Government has not the information asked for in this question. The Honourable Member is referred to paragraph 2 of the Collector's letter from which he quotes and to the answer given to clause (*a*) of question No. XV * asked by the Honourable Member at the last meeting of this Council. * 15 *supra*, p. 5.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

59 [XVI] *Question*.—With reference to the answer to the question No. XIV † asked by me at the meeting of this Council held on the 26th January 1900, will Government be pleased to state the number of suits that have come from Gódávari, in which "the plaintiffs have generally asserted that the supply of water was not beneficial or had not been used"? When did those suits arise and how did they terminate? † 14 *supra* p. 5.

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The subject is under further enquiry, and the Government hopes to be able to answer the question if the Honourable Member will be good enough to repeat it at the next meeting ‡ of this Council.

‡ not repeated.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

60 [XVII] *Question.*—(*a*) In view of the remarks, noted in the margin, made by the Collectors of Kistna and Gódávari in connection with the re-settlement of the said districts, and in view of the statement made * by the Hon'ble Mr. Grose at the meeting of this Council held on the 18th December 1895 that "it is also found that some areas of rich soils have deteriorated owing to defective drainage," will Government be pleased to state the extent of such areas and whether any and what relief has been afforded in the resettlement in respect thereof?

(1) It may perhaps be said that the Kistna water used for purposes of the irrigation also enriches the soil—a statement which is not altogether supported by facts. In the sister district of Gódávari, Mr. Brodie says: "Broadly speaking, the best soils have deteriorated and the worst improved, etc."—(paragraph 7 of his letter embodied in Board's Proceedings, No. 43, dated the 12th March 1896). In paragraph 18 of its Proceedings, No. 5022, dated the 25th July 1870, the Board has thus described the condition of the soils in this district that had been for some years under canal irrigation: "The extent to which 'soudu' prevails has already been noticed (*i.e.*, 25·6). The efflorescence is caused by the water liquifying salts in the soil. It renders land barren for years and the *suddenness with which fertile punja has thus become sterile on being irrigated* has alarmed the people. It can be remedied in time by manuring and flooding". The cases in which Government water has been supplied to remove "soudu" are very rare. In paragraph 31 of his report embodied in Board's Proceedings, No. 43, dated the 12th March 1896, Mr. Clerk says: "At the same time some of the rich soils (in the Gódávari district) have deteriorated owing to defective drainage"; and Mr. Meyer says: "I agree with the Tahsildar of Ramachendrapuram that, taking the soil *per se*, the irrigation of the land for thirty years has caused much more loss than gain. In the old days the river in flood seasons deposited fresh silt over an immense tract of country. Now the net work of canals and channels causes deposit of the silt therein and prevents benefit to outlying fields. The remarks of the Ramachendrapuram Tahsildar, who is an honest, able and experienced officer, show that the settlement classifiers have not taken this sufficiently into account, but have classed as 'alluvial' lands that are not really such. Note, too, what this Tahsildar says about the appearance of saline efflorescence, the course which accompanies irrigation in Northern India in some of the lands in his taluk. Also his remark—a just one I think—that the improvement that has taken place in lands formerly swampy is, in some cases at any rate, due to the expenditure of capital by their owners in bunding them. The above sketch applies equally to the Kistna Eastern delta." (Paragraph 8 of the letter of the Collector of Kistna, embodied in Board's Proceedings, No. 40, dated 25th January 1898).

(2) "I am not aware that the Tanjore ryot has to contend with 'soudu' which is the bane of so much of the Gódávari delta." (Paragraph 24 of the letter of the Collector of Gódávari embodied in Board's Proceedings, No. 43, dated 12th March 1896).

* 273; Vol. 1, p. 107.

(*b*) Whether Government contemplates taking any measures for preventing the deterioration of the soils in the said deltas? Will Government be pleased to state the extent of "soudu" land in respect of which water has been supplied free of charge during the last five years in the said deltas and to issue the necessary instructions to give effect to the orders of the Secretary of State conveyed in his despatch, dated 7th January 1873, No. 1, in the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—Deterioration of soil may be due to other causes besides defective drainage, notably to bad husbandry.

Putting aside mere assertion, probably the only proof of deterioration which could be offered would be the fact that certain land at the original settlement was put in a higher class than its condition is now found to warrant. It is impracticable to eliminate other possible causes of deterioration, and to locate the exact areas where deterioration is due to defective drainage alone. Where deterioration has occurred relief has been provided for in the re-settlement by a re-inspection and re-classification of the soils, and by dividing the irrigation sources into four classes with rates of assessment diminishing from class I to class IV in proportion to the defects of the source.

Government does not admit any general deterioration of soils, but on the contrary is of opinion that there has been during the last thirty years on the whole an immense improvement due to immunity from the devastation caused by floods, and to constant improvement in the regulation of the water supply. Unremitting attention is devoted by the Public Works Department to curing defects in drainage and to the general improvement of the irrigation system in the delta; but if manuring, rotation of crops and good methods of agriculture are neglected, no Government measures can prevent an impoverishment of the soils. The remedy is in the hands of the ryots and if they do their part there need be no occasion for any fear of deterioration.

In the quotation which the Honourable Member gives it is stated that the cases in which Government water has been supplied to remove "soudu" are very rare. The Government believes this to be the case and that it is ascribable to the fact that, in the area of land reclaimed and brought under cultivation, the extent rendered barren by "soudu" is inconsiderable and only to be found in very small patches.

The Honourable Member's assumption that effect has not been given to the orders of the Secretary of State is unwarranted.

The water-rate rules provide for the free supply of water, if available, for flooding "soudu" land. The Government is not prepared to call for statistics of the area so flooded during the last five years, as it is not apparent that the information would serve any useful purpose.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

61 [XVIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Has Government passed any and what orders on the proposals—(1) to transfer the responsibility of distribution of water under certain anicut systems in this presidency to the Revenue Department, and (2) to reform the agency charged with the distribution of water in Gódávari and Kistna deltas ?

(*b*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the remedies proposed by the Gódávari District Association in paragraph 7 of the Memorandum submitted by its President to the Collector, Gódávari, on the 31st October 1898, in view to minimise the existing difficulties in the distribution of water for irrigation ?

If so, will Government be pleased to enquire how far the said suggestions are practicable and to take the necessary action in the matter ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) (1) The Government has decided that the Public Works Department should retain charge of the distribution of water under the large works where that duty now devolves upon that department.

(2) The question of improving the position of delta superintendents is now under consideration.

(*b*) Yes, the memorandum received the attention of Government when the decision just stated was arrived at. A Special Engineer officer and staff have been appointed for the Kistna district to devise measures for improving the irrigation system.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

62 [XIX] *Question.*—Whether Government has called for the opinions of the District Officers and the Board of Revenue on the Madras Water-cess Act Amendment Bill No. 6 of 1899 ? If not, will Government be pleased to take steps to obtain their opinions and to lay the same on the table when received ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The printed papers with which the Honourable Member has been furnished contain the reports of certain District Officers and of the Board of Revenue indicating the necessity for the proposed legislation and their opinion as to the lines on which it should proceed. The Bill, as drafted, was also forwarded to the Board of Revenue for remarks, and met with its full approval.

In many of the districts where there are no zamindari and inam lands under large irrigation systems, the proposed amendments of Act VII of 1865 will have little or no operation. The suggestion that all District officers should be consulted regarding the Bill is one which does not commend itself to Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

63 [XX] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to lay on the table (1) a copy of G.O., No. 583, Revenue, dated 30th October 1896, regarding the "owner's rate" referred to in paragraph 67 of the scheme report, dated 6th July 1897, No. 428, on the re-settlement of the Kistna district, and all connected papers; and (2) a copy of the report of the Deputy Director, Mr. Wynch [Appendix B to Board's Proceedings (R.S., etc.), dated 13th August 1894, No. 333] referred to in paragraph 7 of the remarks of the Collector of Gódávari on the scheme report on the re-settlement of the Gódávari district?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Government is of opinion that no useful purpose would be served by the publication of the papers referred to.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

64 [XXI] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to call for the information noted in the annexed statement and to lay the same on the table :—

STATEMENT showing the irrigated area in the Gódávari-Kistna delta according to the latest available village irrigation account No. 8.

Extent of land under "wet" cultivation from or before the construction of the anicut and entered as "Mamúlpalam" in the village account No. 8.

Area paying water-cess.				Area on which no water-cess is levied.				Total area.
Ryotwari	Inam.	Zamin land.	Total.	Ryotwari.	Inam.	Zamin land.	Total.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Extent of land converted from "dry" to "wet" since the construction of the anicut.									Extent of unoccupied land brought under "wet" cultivation since the construction of the anicut.	Total irrigated area being total of columns 9, 18 and 19.
By flow.				By lift.				Total area.		
Ryot-wari.	Inam.	Zamin land.	Total.	Ryot-wari.	Inam.	Zamin land.	Total.			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—A statement will be laid upon the table giving the statistics required so far as they are available from the records maintained by the Board of Revenue.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

65 [XXII] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to state whether any account was taken of the lands in the Gódávari and Kistna deltas, which had been benefited, by percolation from the sources of irrigation that existed previous to the

construction of the anicuts, or by floods, when, in 1865, it was decided to supply the owners of "mamúl wet" inam and zamin lands with anicut water, free of separate charge, and whether any and what compensation was paid either then or subsequently for damage caused by the stoppage or diminution of such percolation and by the cessation of floods due to the construction of embankments or other works?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member's question is a series of assumptions. The Government is not aware whether the construction of the anicuts was attended by any damage to lands by stoppage or diminution of percolation.

Prima facie, there appears no reason why works designed to protect the irrigable area from floods should cause damage. On the contrary the presumption is that these protective works have conferred enormous benefits. If any damage was caused without compensation being duly paid, the courts have always been open. So far as Government is aware no record has been maintained from which the information asked for can be gleaned.

The Hon'ble Mr. Venkataratnam Pantulu :—

66 [XXIII] *Question*.—(*a*) Were any and what instructions issued for the localisation of the "mamúl wet" inam and zamin lands entitled to free irrigation in the Gódávari delta?

(*b*) Is it a fact that a Special Deputy Collector was appointed to carry out the said work and that he submitted his report?

(*c*) If so, have any final orders been passed, and will Government be pleased to lay the papers on the table?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) Instructions have been issued with a view to the localisation of the "mamúl wet" inam and zamindari lands in the Gódávari Delta. The Government is not at present prepared to publish these instructions.

(*b*) The answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative.

(*c*) The work done was found to require revision, and final orders have not yet been passed.

The Hon'ble Mr. Venkataratnam Pantulu :—

67 [XXIV] *Question*.—Will Government be pleased to state whether the principle enunciated by the Secretary of State in his Despatch No. 43, dated 6th July 1860, regarding the assessment of water-rates, is in force in this presidency, and if so, whether the consolidated wet rates sanctioned by Government in connection with the re-settlement of the Gódávari and Kistna districts were calculated in accordance with that principle?

"However much the benefits derived by the purchasers of the water may vary according to the nature of the soils to which they may apply it, its value to the seller, whether the Government or a private association like the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company, remains the same, whatever the purposes may be for which it is used."

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The answer to both clauses of the question is in the negative. The quotation given by the Honourable Member enunciates no principle, but is a controvertible proposition. It cannot be admitted that the value of a commodity to the seller remains the same however much its value to purchasers may vary.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

68 [XXV] *Question.*—(*a*) Is Government aware that the average rate levied in the Punjab * for the use of water for irrigation, including owner's rate and indirect revenue was, according to the figures for 1897–98, Rs. 3 per acre, or one-ninth of the value of the crop; and that the average rate levied in Bengal † was Rs. 1·88 per acre or one-twelfth of the value of the crop?

* Resolution of the Government of India, Public Works Department, No. 264 I., dated 28th March 1899, published in the *Gazette of India*, dated 1st April 1899.

† Resolution of the Government of India, Public Works Department, No. 247 C.W.I., dated 21st March 1899, published in same.

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to state what the average rate levied in this presidency is, and what proportion of the value of the crop the said rate represents?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to take steps to insert the said information in the future annual reports on the irrigation works in this presidency?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is requested to repeat the question at the next meeting ‡.

‡ 103 *infra*, p. 39.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

69 [XXVI] *Question.*—With reference to the recommendations made in paragraph 247 of their report by the Madras Provincial Committee of 1883 regarding the restoration of the Provincial grants that had been made towards the maintenance of the Imperial roads transferred to the care of the Local Boards, and also with reference to the remarks made on the subject by the Hon'ble Mr. Webster during the debates in this Council in connection with the Bill which became Act V of 1884, will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the contributions made to the several District Boards for the said purpose, since the Act V of 1884 was passed?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to the General Local Fund reviews, which have been placed on the Editors' Table.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

70 [XXVII] *Question.*—With reference to the answer to the question No. XII (*a*) § asked by me at the meeting of this Council, held on the 26th January 1900, will Government be pleased to consider the propriety of extending to those who raise plantain gardens in the Gódávari and Kistna Deltas the concession allowed to those who raise cocoanut plantations of applying for water for every six months in a year—from 1st January to 30th June or from 1st July to 31st December—and of paying a single water-rate for every period of six months for which water is so taken?

§ 12 *supra*, p. 4.

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The suggestion will be referred to the Board of Revenue.

The Hon'ble Mr. NORTON :—

71 [XXVIII] *Question.*—(*a*) How many men, women, and children (if any) are there among the Native British subjects who were expelled from the Transvaal and who are now living in Madras?

(*b*) Where are they lodged?

(*c*) Are they supported at Government cost?

(*d*) If so, does the Government allow them any and what fixed allowance per head?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) 28 men, 13 women and 19 children under 15 years of age.

(*b*) In the plague camp near the old Lunatic Asylum.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) The amount is regulated by the Commissioner of Police. According to the latest report the allowance was 2 annas per diem for each adult, and 1 anna for each child.

The Hon'ble Mr. NORTON :—

72 [XXIX] *Question*.—Will the Government furnish a list showing the names, ages, creeds, and occupations of these refugees ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Government has no information as to the "creeds" of the refugees, but a list showing their names, and ages and occupations will be laid on the table.

The Hon'ble Mr. NORTON :—

73 [XXX] *Question*.—Is it the fact that in 1896–97 the results of the breeding operations of the Civil Veterinary department only in the birth of 20 per cent. of mares covered, showed that only 93 foals were procured from 470 mares covered, and in 1897–98 only 83 foals from 547 mares ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to the annual reports of the Civil Veterinary department for the years mentioned. The reports are contained in G.Os., Nos. 428, Revenue, dated 2nd August 1898, and 497, Revenue, dated 31st July 1899, copies of which were placed on the Editors' Table and may be obtained from the Superintendent of the Government Press.

The Hon'ble Mr. NORTON :—

74 [XXXI] *Question*.—(*a*) Of the five Stock Inspectors is it the fact that only two have received any training ?

(*b*) Is the work of these Inspectors bacteriological ?

(*c*) Is that work of any practical value in breeding operations ?

(*d*) Has this work been going on since 1893 ?

(*e*) Have its results, if any, been collected and published ?

(*f*) And if so, will the Government make these results accessible to the public ?

(*g*) Does the Government make any and what provision in the Civil Veterinary department for the treatment or prevention of contagious diseases ?

(*h*) Is it the fact that though the Superintendent is expected to spend eight or ten months in camp (i) he has not the means of doing any work, (ii) and is not permitted to make any alterations ?

(*i*) What is the amount allotted annually for staff and breeding operations ?

(*j*) Of what does the staff consist and what is its pay ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The examination qualifications of the Stock Inspectors will be found set out on pages 23 and 24 of the annual Revenue establishment list for 1900, copies of which can be obtained from the Superintendent of the Government Press.

(*b*) The Stock Inspectors have been partly engaged in making enquiries and accumulating data with a view to facilitating a bacteriological survey.

(*c*) Not directly.

(*d*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*e*) & (*f*) The Government cannot say that any valuable results have yet been obtained. The present Superintendent is examining the reports of the Stock Inspectors, and if the Board of Revenue finds itself in a position to publish any useful information it will do so.

(*g*) Various pamphlets and notices describing the chief diseases and the most approved methods of treatment have been published and circulated from time to time; the necessity of segregation is constantly preached; and the Superintendent and Stock Inspectors generally visit the locality where any severe outbreak of epizootic disease occurs and give the ryots the benefit of their advice. Sick animals are treated or prescribed for when the ryots desire it, but no compulsion is used. It is under consideration to institute a series of experiments in prophylactic inoculation.

(*h*) The Honourable Member's questions are not understood.

(*i*) & (*j*) The Honourable Member is referred to the Civil Budget Estimates.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

75 [XXXII] *Question.*—Is it a fact that Colonel A. W. Smart, R.E., on special duty in the district of Tanjore, has, in view to prevent and utilize for agricultural purposes the wastage of the Cauvery water in that district, made certain definite proposals? If so, will the Government be pleased to place on the table the papers connected with the proposed scheme, together with the orders, if any, passed thereon by the Government?

If final orders have not yet been passed thereon, will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of giving an opportunity to the public to express their views on the scheme before the Government finally disposes of the question?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—Colonel Smart has proposed the construction of a reservoir on the Cauvery, but has not drawn up any detailed scheme. The only scheme fully investigated is the Bhaváni project which has been recently examined by the Inspector-General of Irrigation, and he will shortly communicate his views when orders on the project will be passed by Government.

The Government cannot comply with the request to publish the papers before orders are passed.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

76 [XXXIII] *Question.*—(*a*) In reference to Rule No. 19 of the "General conditions applicable to all abkári and opium licenses," published in the notification of the Board of Revenue, No. 15, dated 31st July 1899, viz., "no liquor, opium or intoxicated drugs shall be sold either below or above such minimum or maximum prices as may be fixed for sale of the same in accordance with the law for the time being in force," will the Government be pleased to state the policy involved in that portion of the rule which imposes on licensees a restriction as to the maximum price?

(*b*) In framing this part of the rule, did the Government consider the provisions of the Madras Abkári Act I of 1886 contained in section 29, clause (*f*), under which the Governor in Council is given power to frame a rule to fix the minimum price and the fact that no similar provisions of the Act exist as to the maximum price?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state what is "the law for the time being in force" referred to in the rule under which the Governor in Council has power to prescribe the maximum price above which licensees are forbidden to sell liquor, opium and intoxicated drugs?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The policy involved in the rule is to prevent the vendor from enhancing the price to the consumer so as to tempt the latter to resort to illicit practices.

(*b*) & (*c*) Section 29, clause (*f*) of the Abkári Act, which the Honourable Member quotes, confers the power to fix a minimum price with reference to a "local area". The authority to impose upon persons licensed to sell, a condition limiting the selling price will be found in section 16 of the Act under which the Government may attach any such conditions as it may deem fit to the grant of the privilege of sale.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

77 [XXXIV] *Question*.—Will the Government be pleased to state how many shops have been opened and are now in existence in the mufassal in the vicinity of the shops of the licensees, by virtue of Rule No. 12 of the said "General Condition" of sale?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Government is not in possession of this information and its compilation for all the districts of the presidency would involve much labour.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

78 [XXXV] *Question*.—Has the Government received a petition from one P. Sriramulu, lately employed as Salt Sub-Inspector, praying for the revision of the order passed on him departmentally? Is it a fact that in this petitioner's case one and the same officer took part in the original investigation and decision as well as in the appeal?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Government has received a petition from P. Sriramulu, late a Sub-Inspector in the Salt, Abkári and Separate Revenue department, containing a second appeal against his dismissal from Government service. The Government finds that the case was first reported on by Mr. Leggatt as Assistant Commissioner to Mr. Merriman, the Deputy Commissioner. Mr. Merriman decided to dismiss the Sub-Inspector and left a note to this effect on record but was unable to issue a formal proceedings before he handed over charge of his office to Mr. Leggatt. The formal proceedings dismissing the Sub-Inspector therefore issued in the name of Mr. Leggatt.

The Sub-Inspector's first appeal lay and was made to the Board of Revenue who rejected it.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

79 [XXXVI] *Question*.—Has the Government received a memorial from the inhabitants of Tiruppattúr, in the Salem district, alleging that those of them, who in obedience to the orders issued by the authorities when the plague appeared in that town had left their houses, have been exposed to several troubles and loss and oppression? Will the Government be pleased to direct an investigation into the grievances alleged by the memorialists?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—A memorial from the people of Tiruppattúr has been received and already disposed of. A copy of the order issued thereon will be furnished to the Honourable Member.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

80 [XXXVII] *Question.*—Is it a fact that the Committee of the Pariah Mahajana Sabah of Madras sent to the Government a petition, dated the 21st October 1898, in which they complained that the orders of the Government as to the admission in schools of Panchama pupils on favourable rates of school-fees have not loyally been given effect to in several institutions in Madras? If so, has the Government directed an investigation into the truth of the allegations made in that petition? Will it be pleased to state what orders it has passed in the matter and place the papers on the table?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The first part of the question is answered in the affirmative. The allegations made in the petition were considered by the Director of Public Instruction to be unfounded and his report on the subject was communicated to the petitioners. The cover containing the communication, however, was returned by the Post office as unclaimed. The order of Government on the petition referred to will be communicated to the Honourable Member and placed on the Editors' Table.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

81 [XXXVIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the information noted in the following statement?—

Name of the delta.	Extent of land on which consolidated wet rate has been imposed in the revision settlement (1900).			Extent of occupied land respecting which option to take or refuse water is still allowed.								
				Irrigable.				Not irrigable.				
	Extent under wet cultivation for five consecutive years.	Extent from which in the opinion of the Settlement-Officer, Government water cannot be excluded.	Total.	Ryotwari.	Inam.	Zamin.	Total.	Ryotwari.	Inam.	Zamin.	Total.	Total of columns 8 and 12.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.
Gódávari delta ..												
Kistna delta ..												

(*b*) With reference to the extra charge of one rupee per acre sanctioned to be levied from the owners of the lands in the Gódávari and Kistna deltas, to whom the option is still allowed, "in consideration of the administrative inconvenience caused thereby" (paragraph 13, G.O., No. 436, Revenue, dated 7th July 1899), will Government be pleased to state if any reports have been received from local officers complaining of such inconvenience since the option was originally granted; if so, will Government be pleased to lay the said reports on the table?

(*c*) In view of the free option granted to the cultivators by the despatches of the Secretary of State for India, No. 81, dated 24th November 1863; No. 4, Public Works, dated 11th January 1870; and No. 1, dated 7th January 1873; and, in view of the fact, that under existing rules there is little of inspection work and that the Public Works Department have had constantly to refuse water on the ground that they cannot guarantee the necessary supply (paragraphs 51 and 52 of the remarks of the Collector of Gódávari embodied in Board's Proceedings, No. 43, dated 12th March 1896), will Government be pleased to reconsider its orders and to cancel the said extra charge?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The information is not at present available.

(*b*) & (*c*) The answer is in the negative.

3. MEETING OF THE 3RD APRIL 1900.

The Hon'ble NAWAB SAIYID MUHAMMAD :—

82 [I] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the ryots of the Tanjore district have memorialised the Government against the increase of the staff of the village servants and the village cess which has been recently sanctioned by the Government?

(*b*) Is it the fact that there is a widespread feeling among the ryots that the increase is likely to cause them considerable hardship? If so, will the Government be pleased to postpone the introduction of the measure until the subject has been fully enquired into and considered by the Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) Two petitions have been received on the subject.

(*b*) So far as the Government is aware there is no such feeling. The scheme has been introduced after full enquiry and consideration.

4. MEETING OF THE 2ND APRIL 1901.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

83 [I] *Question.*—With reference to the complaint made to His Excellency during his recent visit to Salem by the Sowrashtra Patriot Press, I beg to ask whether it is a fact that the printing work of the Taluk and District Boards in the presidency is being executed at the city of Madras at selected presses under the supervision of the Accountant-General ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—Yes, so far as regards the printing of the forms of accounts, vouchers, &c.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

84 [II] *Question.*—(*a*) Whether it is a fact that minors of the Court of Wards undergoing training in Newington in Madras are not permitted to be visited by their friends and relatives without an authority obtained from a member of the Board of Revenue or the Collector ?

(*b*) Whether it is a fact that the minor zamindar of Sholinghur, sent to Newington for education and training, has been sent to a native regiment at Bellary on Rs. 40 per mensem as a jemadar without the knowledge of his mother ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government has no information on the point It is within the discretion of the Court of Wards to make such a rule, if it sees occasion to do so.

(*b*) There is no minor zamindar of Sholinghur. The Honourable Member, no doubt, refers to the minor zamindar of Shulagiri, who is under the Court of Wards. This minor, who is about nineteen years of age, having expressed a strong desire to embrace a military career, has been permitted by the Court, with the knowledge but not with the approval of his mother, to apply for a commission in His Majesty's Indian Army.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

85 [III] *Question.*—Whether it is a fact that the Government of India contemplate restricting for some time to come all fresh appointments of Deputy Collectors in view to making room for covenanted Civilian Assistants expected to come in large numbers ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Government has no information in the matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

86 [IV] *Question.*—Is Government in a position to furnish any information regarding the establishment of agricultural banks, and will it be pleased to furnish the same if available ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The subject is under discussion and consideration. G.O., No. 129, dated 19th February 1901, which contains information as to the latest stage of the discussion, has been published and will be laid on the table.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

87 [V] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the correspondence which appeared in the *Madras Times*, dated the 11th October 1900, under the heading of "Travancore Backwater" ?

(*b*) Is there any truth in the statement that a Cutch merchant and a Muhammadan were murdered by the boatmen during the night journey in the backwater between Travancore and Cochin for the sake of booty ?

(c) Is it a fact that there has been a great risk to life and property in the backwater, and, if so, whether any and what steps have been taken in the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Government has received no information on the subject of the Honourable Member's questions. The internal administration of Travancore rests with the Maharaja of that State, and the Government does not purpose making any enquiries.

The Hon'ble Mr. Ratnasabhapati Pillai :—

88 [VI] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to state if it has received any despatch from the Government of India regarding the separation of the executive from judicial functions, and what is proposed to be done?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—Yes; the matter is under consideration.

The Hon'ble Mr. Ratnasabhapati Pillai :—

89 [VII] *Question.*—(a) Whether it is a fact that the fee payable by each student in the Madras Law College has been raised to Rs. 150 per annum, and that in consequence students are resorting to the Law College in Trivandrum?

(b) Is it a fact that the scale of fees in force in the Madras Law College is three times the Bombay scale?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(a) The fees payable by the students reading for the degree of B.L. for the last three terms of their course have been raised from Rs. 100 to Rs. 150 per annum. There has been no increase of fees payable by students studying in any other class. Government has no information as to the attendance at the Law College in Trivandrum.

(b) Government has no information on the subject.

The Hon'ble Mr. Ratnasabhapati Pillai :—

90 [VIII] *Question.*—(a) Will Government be pleased to furnish particulars in regard to the occurrence of the accident by fire in a temple at Chidambaram on the 20th May 1900, and state the total number of lives lost, and of the persons seriously injured on the occasion?

(b) Whether the leaf pandals erected in the temple on the occasion of the feast had been previously inspected by anybody and whether sufficient means of egress had been provided?

(c) Whether the examining authorities had been satisfied that all precautions to ensure public safety had been taken in the erection of the pandals, and whether the usual license had been issued by them?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—A copy of the District Magistrate's report on the accident, which contains the information required, will be furnished to the Honourable Member.

The Hon'ble Mr. Ratnasabhapati Pillai :—

91 [IX] *Question.*—With reference to my questions * Nos. XII, VII and XXXVIII asked at the Council meetings of 7th April, 6th June and 14th November 1899, respectively, and the replies thereto, will Government be pleased to state whether the opportunity afforded by the retirement of Lieutenant-Colonel W. Leapingwell, I.M.S., and the consequent vacancy in the district charge of Kistna will be availed of to provide one of the senior civil assistant surgeons with a civil surgeoncy?

* 829, 857 and 929, Vol. I, pp. 297, 309 and 332, respectively.

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The vacancies caused by Lieutenant-Colonel Leapingwell's retirement have already been filled up.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

92 [X] *Question.*—(*a*) Will Government be pleased to state whether the Municipal Council of Salem has, in submitting its budget estimates for 1901–1902, expressed its inability to make a grant-in-aid of Rs. 450 to the local London Mission school?

(*b*) Has Government, nevertheless, passed orders directing the Municipal Council to pay the grant?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the Council's finance is not in a flourishing condition?

(*d*) Is it a fact that the Collector has declined to recommend to Government the Council's proposals sanctioning certain increments to the salaries of the staff of the Municipal college, while admitting that the staff deserves encouragement?

(*e*) Has Government, accordingly, disallowed all the increments proposed by the Municipal Council to the staff of the Municipal college?

(*f*) Had any grant been paid to the local London Mission school by the Municipal Council until 1895 or 1896, and, if not, whether the Council's action had the approval then of the late Director of Public Instruction and the Government?

(*g*) Whether there has been any and what change of circumstances since 1895 or 1896 to necessitate the orders now passed by Government directing the payment of the grant to the abovenamed institution?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Honourable Member is referred to paragraph 3 (2) of the Chairman's letter in G.O., No. 349 M., dated 2nd March 1901, in which will be found the Municipal Council's reasons for not making a grant-in-aid to the London Mission school. The Government order has been placed on the Editors' Table.

(*b*), (*c*), (*d*) & (*e*) The answers to these parts of the question are in the affirmative.

(*f*) The answer to the former part of this question is that no grant was made up to 1895. The answer to the latter part is that the approval either of the Director or of Government was not required for the Council's action.

(*g*) In June 1895, the Municipal Council resolved on the payment from 1st January 1895 of salary grants to the London Mission school and Rs. 488 were accordingly paid in the year 1895-96, Rs. 444 in 1896–97 and Rs. 432 in 1897–98. In its budget estimates for 1898–99 and the three succeeding years, however, the Municipal Council omitted the provision for this grant and the reasons for directing its payment will be found in the letters of the Director of Public Instruction, printed in G.Os., No. 405 M., dated 18th February 1898, No. 396 M., dated 18th March 1899, No. 385 M., dated 17th March 1900, and No. 349 M., dated 2nd March 1901, which have been placed on the Editors' Table.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

93 [XI] *Question.*—(*a*) Which of the listed appointments declared open to the Provincial Civil Service are still held by the members of the Indian Civil Service, and when will those appointments be handed over to the Provincial Service?

(*b*) Have the claims of all Indian Civilians in this presidency down to and including Mr. M. D. Bell to a permanent collectorate or judgeship been already satisfied? If so, will Government be pleased to hand over to the Provincial Civil Service such of the listed appointments as are now held by the members of the Indian Civil Service?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—No listed appointments declared open to the Provincial Civil Service are now held by members of the Indian Civil Service.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

94 [XII] *Question.*— Is it a fact that the following appointments, though not reserved to the Indian Civil Service, are now held by the members of that service?—

One Deputy Commissioner, Salt, Abkári and Customs department.

One Assistant Secretary to Government.

One Deputy Registrar, High Court.

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The first and second appointments are not now filled by members of the Indian Civil Service; the third is so filled.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

95 [XIII] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to state the number of native inspectors of salt, abkári and customs revenue of the first and second grade? Have they been superseded by junior European inspectors in filling up the Assistant Commissioner's appointments? If so, on what grounds?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—There is only one native inspector in these grades at present. He was superseded on the ground that he was not considered equal to the charge of a sub-division.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

96 [XIV] *Question.*—Did the Board of Revenue propose in 1883 to raise the pay of the Collector's English head accountant from Rs. 85 to Rs. 100, in view to improve the administration of district treasuries? Was the said proposal incorporated in Mr. Garstin's scheme and approved by Government in its proceedings, dated 18th March 1884, No. 396, paragraph 12? Will Government be pleased to state when it will give effect to the said proposal?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member's information is virtually correct. The proposal formed part of a scheme for strengthening the Collectors' office establishments, which scheme has had to give way to more urgent demands on the resources of Government. The Government is not in a position to answer the last of the three questions.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

97 [XV] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the description of the ryotwari tenure given (1) in the administration report of this presidency for 1855–56, (2) in a return made to the House of Commons by the Home Government in 1857, (3) and in a review of this Government on the report of 1857 of the Hon'ble Mr. Ricketts?

(*b*) Is the said description correct? If so, will Government be pleased to direct the modification of Board's Standing Order No. 1, paragraph 4, so as to bring it into conformity with the said description? If not, in what respects is it incorrect and when did Government discover it?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Government is familiar with the three descriptions to which the Honourable Member refers. Each if properly interpreted is correct as far as it goes, but none of the three professes to be a scientific and exhaustive definition. Paragraph 4 of Board's Standing Order No. 1 is not out of harmony with anything in the descriptions quoted.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

98 [XVI] *Question.*—(*a*) With reference to the opinion endorsed by the Madras Agricultural Committee of 1888–89 that a re-valuation of soils at each recurring revision would be fatal to improvement and the remarks of Government noted in the margin, will Government be pleased to state whether the said intention has been carried out in the settlements made subsequent to 1889? If not, why not?

"The recommendation that legislation should be undertaken for the purpose of defining authoritatively the status of the ryot need not be noticed at length, for it is made under a misapprehension of the real fact . . . Nor has the Government any intention of revising the classification of soils. This principle has been repeatedly laid down and is very clearly stated in the Settlement Manual. The statement to the contrary in the Manual of Administration is incorrect . . . . " (G.O., dated 4th July 1889, No. 515, Revenue, paragraph 20).

(*b*) Has the attention of Government been called to a provision contained in the Bombay Land Revenue Code (section 106, Act V of 1879) that "when a general classification of the soil of any area has been made a second time, or when any original classification of any area has been approved by the Governor in Council as final, no such classification shall be again made with a view to the revision of the assessment of such area? , Will Government be pleased to undertake legislation on similar lines for this presidency?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) No: because the Secretary of State and the Government of India directed that the classification or valuation of soils was not to be necessarily regarded as final.

(*b*) The Government is aware of the provision quoted. The Government has no intention of moving the legislature to enact a similar provision in Madras.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

99 [XVII] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to lay on the table—

(i) G.O., No. 162, Revenue, dated 18th March 1898;

(ii) G.O., No. 396, Revenue, dated 26th June 1899;

(iii) Board's Proceedings, No. 135 (Revenue Settlement), dated 25th May 1899; and

(iv) a copy of the rules now in force in this presidency regarding the redemption of land revenue?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(i), (ii), (iii). G.O., No. 396, Revenue, dated 26th June 1899, will be laid on the table, but not the other two papers quoted.

(iv) The only rule in this presidency regarding the redemption of land revenue is that no redemption shall be permitted in perpetuity without the previous sanction of the Government of India.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

100 [XVIII] *Question.*—What is the extent of arable land now lying waste in this presidency? What is the average assessment per acre of such land? Whether Government has any, and if so, what measures under contemplation for bringing the said land under cultivation?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—Statistics regarding culturable waste including fallows will be found in the compilation of agricultural statistics of British India, copies of which are on sale with Messrs. Higginbotham & Co., Madras. Information regarding the average assessment on the total extent of assessed waste is not available and cannot be easily compiled. The Government has no special measures under contemplation for bringing culturable waste under cultivation. As the Honourable Member is aware, the ryots or pattadars of a village have the privilege under the *darkhast* rules of extending their holdings by the addition of such portions of the "*assessed*

waste" as they may apply for on the condition of paying the assessment. If no pattadars apply for such land, the first applicant among strangers is accorded the same privileges.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

101 [XIX] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a communication that appeared in the *Hindu* of the 26th February 1901 under the heading "The Outlook in North Arcot District" and to the hardships said to have been caused by the remission rules as at present worked? How long has the order that every application for remission should bear a court-fee stamp of one anna been in force?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the papers relating to the rules that no remission should be granted?—

(1) in the case of portions of fields;
(2) in the case of mamool waste; and
(3) in cases in which the yield is more than one-sixteenth of an ordinary crop.

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government has read the article referred to. It was ruled in 1870 that applications for remission should bear a court-fee stamp of one anna under the Court Fees Act.

(*b*) The rules will be found in the Board's Standing Order. The Government cannot engage to supply the Honourable Member with all the papers in which the discussions regarding the rules have been from time to time raised.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

102 [XX] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to order the publication in the *Fort St. George Gazette* and in the District Gazettes of a copy of the letter of His Excellency the Governor-General giving his assent to the Madras Irrigation Cess Act, 1900, and to instruct Collectors of districts to draw the attention of the taluk and village officers to the condition that no charge should be made for percolation, except in cases in which the supply of water is full and constant?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—This Government has no authority to publish the Governor-General's letter with regard to the Act referred to.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

ame as 68 *supra*, p. 28.

* **103** [XXI] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the Resolutions of the Government of India, Public Works Department, No. 264 I., dated 28th March 1899, and No. 247 C. W. I., dated 21st March 1899, published in the *Gazette of India*, dated 1st April 1899, from which it would appear that the average rate levied in the Punjab for the use of water for irrigation, including owners' rate and indirect revenue, was, according to the figures for 1897–98, Rs. 3 per acre, or one-ninth of the value of the crop; and that the average rate levied in Bengal was Rs. 1·88 per acre or one-twelfth of the value of the crop?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to state what the average rate levied in this presidency is and what proportion of the value of the crop the said rate represents?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to take steps to insert the said information in the future annual reports on the irrigation works in this presidency?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hughes :—

Answer.—(*a*) Yes; the word one-twelfth in the last line of this part of the question is apparently a misprint for one-twentieth.

(*b*) *and* (*c*) The Honourable Member is referred to administration reports of the Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch, which give such information as is available.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU.

104 [XXII] *Question.*—(*a*) With reference to the answer to question No. XXVII * at the meeting of this Council on the 6th June 1899, will Government be pleased to state the effect of the outlay on "improvements to the Kolair lake" in 1896-97 and 1897-98, and the measures since adopted towards completing the said project? * 877 p.

(*b*) Is it a fact that only Rs. 22,000 have yet been spent on the said improvements out of the amount of Rs. 75,000 sanctioned in G.O., No. 468, dated 1st June 1896? Whether the said expenditure has resulted in bringing about twenty thousand acres under cultivation, yielding a direct revenue of about a lakh of rupees, and whether there is a fair prospect of bringing nearly sixty thousand acres under cultivation, if the full amount sanctioned be spent?

(*c*) In view of the very great importance of the project as affecting the well-being and prosperity of the tract around the lake, independent of its profitable character, will Government be pleased to make due provision for its early completion?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hughes :—

Answer.—(*a*) As to the effect of the outlay on improvements to the Kolair lake in 1896–97 and 1897–98, the Superintending Engineer, II Circle, reported in August 1899 that the openings formed to give free access to the main outlet of the Kolair lake worked well and a strong flow of water was constantly passed through this outlet (the Perantala Kanama) which was scouring slightly. The head of the opening through the weeds still, however, required clearing to make a good communication with the open water and the channel itself for about a mile below the site of the old weir wanted widening. Estimates for these works were stated to be under preparation.

It is rather with a view to protecting existing marginal wet lands from damage by submergence and thereby reducing remissions that the works carried out and proposed were designed and it is not believed that any considerable extent of land will be reclaimed by improvements on the scale proposed.

(*b*) and (*c*) G.O., No. 468 I., dated 1st June 1896, did not sanction an outlay of Rs. 75,000 on the improvements to the lake. There is no information available as to the increase of cultivation or revenue resulting from the outlay already incurred. Much of the land is very unfavourably situated for irrigation. All that can be done is to clear silt in the channels and make the best possible use of the water. This is being attended to.

But the Superintending Engineer, II circle, computed that Rs. 15,000 a year for five years might be wanted.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

105 [XXIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the collective petition submitted by the ryots and cultivators of Srirangapuram and fourteen other villages in the Bápatla and Tenali taluks in the Kistna district in October 1900, complaining that the alteration recently made in the "duty" of water has interfered with the efficient irrigation of their lands under the Srirangapuram branch of the Kommamur canal? If so, whether any and what orders have been passed on the said petition?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the "duty" of water is now worked at 90 acres per cubic foot per second, instead of 60 acres as formerly? Will Government be pleased to lay before the Council the papers relating to this change?

(*c*) Whether this duty is to be enforced uniformly, or whether it is to be varied with reference to any considerations, such as the state of the season, the kind of crop and the physical characteristics of the soil? If variable, whether any and what weight was given in determining the "duty" to the character of the soils irrigated by the Srirangapuram channel? Is it true, as stated in the petition, that the lands under the said channel have had a short supply of water from the beginning

of the year (1900), in spite of the enormous floods in the river and that "many a land could not be transplanted in time and that the lands transplanted and seed-beds withered"?

The Hon'ble Mr Hughes :—

Answer.—(*a*) Yes. The matter was enquired into and the petitioners were informed in November 1900 that steps had been taken to obviate complaints of short supply of water in future.

(*b*) Prior to 1899 no specified duty was exacted from any of the channels of the Kistna delta. In that year an experiment for increasing the duty was started. It appears to have been successfully conducted under the Sriran-gapuram channel. Last year when the freshes were very late and the rainfall deficient a similar experiment appears to have resulted in complaints of short supply of water. In such a case there will always be complaints, as all the ryots try to complete their cultivation in a shorter time than usual. Steps have however, as already stated, been taken to obviate complaints of short supply in future.

A copy of circular memorandum No. 32-G., dated 28th July 1894, circulating a note on certain experiments carried out by Mr. Chatterton, Professor of Engineering, College of Engineering, Madras, on the duty of water in the Kistna delta will be sent to the Honourable Member, if desired, for perusal and return.

(*c*) A special officer is now employed in ascertaining the extent of land irrigable in each village under each channel in the Kistna district. Pending the completion of his investigations nothing can be definitely settled about the duty of water in the delta under varying conditions of soil, crop or season.

The Hon'ble Mr. Venkataratnam Pantulu :—

106 [XXIV] *Question.*—With reference to G.O., No. 436, Revenue, dated 7th July 1899, paragraph 13, is it the intention of Government that the extra charge of one rupee per acre should be levied only in cases in which it will operate as an inducement to ryots to accept the consolidated wet rate? If so, will Government be pleased to issue instructions to the district officers not to levy such rate in cases where Government is not in a position to impose a consolidated rate?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. This being so, the second part of the question requires no reply.

The Hon'ble Mr. Venkataratnam Pantulu :—

107 [XXV] *Question.*—What is the extent of land placed under the special dry rate of Rs. 7 in the Gódávari delta? What is the increase obtained by the introduction of this rate? What portion of the extent is under cocoanut gardens and what portion under ordinary crop?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—If the Honourable Member will refer to the Board's Proceedings from which he quotes he will find most of the information for which he asks.

The extent is mentioned in paragraph 23. The increase is mentioned by the Collector in the paragraph from which the Honourable Member quotes.

Information as to the extent under cocoanut gardens is not available.

The Hon'ble Mr. Venkataratnam Pantulu :—

108 [XXVI] *Question.*— (*a*) With reference to the remarks made by the Board of Revenue in paragraphs 12 to 16 of its proceedings, No. 488, dated 8th July 1897 (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), will Government be pleased

to state (1) whether there was an error in converting the local measure called "kuncham" into imperial seers; (2) whether, by reason of that error, the prices entered in the price lists on which the Board's scheme was based were above the correct prices by 10 per cent.; (3) and whether Government accepts as sufficient the grounds urged by the Board in paragraph 16 for refusing to make any deduction for the said error in calculating the commutation rate?

(*b*) Is it a fact that due allowance was made for errors of a similar nature in connection with South Arcot settlement and Kistna resettlement?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) (1) The Government found no such error to have been established: and was further of opinion that had such an error been established it would not have warranted a lower commutation rate than that estimated for the purposes of the resettlement of Gódávari. This being so clauses (2) and (3) of the question require no further answer.

(*b*) Certain errors were allowed for in estimating commutation rates in connection with the South Arcot settlement and the resettlement in Kistna (Gudiváda taluk).

The Hon'ble Mr. Venkataratnam Pantulu :—

109 [XXVII] *Question.*—(*a*) Whether, in the introduction of the resettlement in the Gódávari delta, any lands have been transferred to higher classes and any villages to higher groups than those in which they were placed by the late Mr. Clerk, by whom the original scheme was submitted? If so, what is the extent of such land, what are the reasons for such transfer, and what is the increase of revenue obtained thereby?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a detailed statement showing the financial results of the scheme introduced in connection with the re-settlement of the ryotwari lands (1) in the Gódávari delta, (2) in the upland taluks and (3) in the portion of the Kistna district brought under resettlement? What is the increase over the assessment (1) with a 4-rupee water-rate and (2) with a 5-rupee water-rate introduced in 1895? What is the increase due to the enhancement of water-rate from Rs. 4 to Rs. 5 in the case of inam and zamin lands in the said deltas?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) In the course of hearing objection petitions the Deputy Commissioner of Revenue Settlement has authority and may often have occasion to correct errors in classification and grouping.

The Government has before it no information as to the extent to which this authority has been used. If in any case it has been wrongly used, the persons concerned have the usual right of appeal.

(*b*) The final report on the introduction of resettlement into the Gódávari district has not yet been made; and the information desired by the Honourable Member is, therefore, not at present available.

The Hon'ble Mr. Venkataratnam Pantulu :—

110 [XXVIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is the kudivaram rate paid to the licensees who manufacture salt and deliver it into store at the Chinna Ganjám factory only Rs. 10–12–0 per garce? Did those licensees submit any petitions to the officers of the Salt department in 1896 and 1897 complaining of the inadequacy of the said rate, if so, with what result?

(*b*) Whether the said licensees were informed by the assistant inspector, Kanuparti circle, in his memorandum No. 1744, dated 6th October 1897, that they would be paid the same rates as the licensees delivering salt at the Kanuparti factory, and the rate since paid to them has been 8 annas less than the Kanuparti factory rate?

(c) What are the kudivaram rates paid by Government in the different factories and by what considerations are they regulated? Will Government be pleased to revise them, in view of the rise in wages and the high prices of food-grains, and to order the payment, pending such revision, to the Chinna Ganjám licensees of such rates as Government may deem equitable?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes:—

Answer.—(a) The answer is in the affirmative. The rate of kudivaram is Rs. 10–12–0 a garce. The licensees submitted a petition in June 1897 asking that the then existing rate of Rs. 10 might be raised. The Government sanctioned an increase of As. 12 per garce.

(b) The Government is not aware of the communication referred to. The rate of kudivaram paid at Chinna Ganjám is eight annas less than the rate at Kanuparti.

(c) A statement showing the rates of kudivaram paid in the Government factories in 1900 will be given to the Honourable Member. The rates are fixed on a consideration of the circumstances of each locality. The rates are subject to revision from time to time. The Government sees no reason to make any immediate change.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU:—

111 [XXIX] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to extend to the Uriyas, in view of their backward condition, the concession granted to the Muhammadans in regard to the rate of fees levied from them in the Law, Medical and Engineering Colleges?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes:—

Answer.—The Government will take the matter into consideration.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU:—

112 [XXX] *Question.*—In view of the recent changes introduced in the curriculum of the lower secondary examination, whether any, if so, what instructions have been issued to make corresponding changes in the rules and conditions under which the lower secondary scholarships are awarded?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes:—

Answer.—No changes have been introduced in the curriculum of the lower secondary examination.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR:—

113 [XXXI] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state what is the state of the famine in this presidency? In which districts are there test relief works and how many people are obtaining relief there at present?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes:—

Answer.—The latest summary of information regarding the state of the season will be found in the weekly telegrams to the Government of India which are published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*.

State relief is being administered at present in the district of Cuddapah only, where some 3,000 weavers are being given employment at their craft; and where a tank work has been started at Chintagunta on the intermediate system in order to test the need for further relief measures. This test work was attended by 851 persons during the week ending 23rd March.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

114 [XXXII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the Collector of Madras, in view the more readily to obtain information in regard to the levying of the income-tax, has issued a circular notice or order calling upon the merchants from the other provinces of India carrying on business in Madras, to keep their accounts in English or Tamil or Telugu ?

(*b*) Is such a notice or order legal and proper ?

(*c*) Has the Government received any representation complaining of the hardship of such a notice or order ?

(*d*) In view that compliance with such a notice or order would entail on the merchants the additional expense of engaging clerks for the purpose and that keeping accounts in a language which the merchants do not understand might make them victims of fraud, will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of directing the recall of such notice or order ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Government has no information on the subject, and it has received no representations complaining of any hardship of the kind indicated.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

115 [XXXIII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of causing special investigations to be made into the prospects of indigo and sugarcane industries in Southern India on lines similar to those that have been recently adopted in Behar ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—This Government has no official information as to the objects or the results of the enquiries made by the Behar Commission.

With regard to sugarcane, enquiries have been proceeding in this presidency during the last three years as to the extent to which the crop is affected by malignant rusts, and what remedies are feasible. The enquiries made in this direction are described in the papers included in G.Os., No. 127, Revenue, dated 3rd March 1898, No. 173, Revenue, dated 1st March 1900, No. 395, Revenue, dated 27th April 1900, and No. 1081, Revenue, dated 25th October 1900, which have been placed on the Editors' Table and are available to the public. The Government has also approved a proposal that the Agricultural department should undertake the cultivation of the cane in small plots for the purpose of experiment and demonstration. Analyses of the juice of the chief varieties of cane grown in different localities in the presidency are at present being conducted by an expert chemist.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

116 [XXXIV] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the article in the *Madras Times* of the 18th March 1901 headed "Drilled Wells" ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it will consider the desirability of its making investigations on lines suggested in the article ?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to direct the preparation of a detailed report of the artesian well-sinking experiments made in this presidency and lay it on the table ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hughes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The attention of Government has not been drawn to the article referred to.

(*b*) No useful purpose would be served by ordering an investigation of the kind asked for.

(c) The results of the experiments made have been printed and placed at the disposal of the public press. The Honourable Member, and any one interested, can obtain copies of the orders passed.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

117 [XXXV] *Question.*—In view of the desirability of constructing at least one good harbour in the West Coast of this presidency, will the Government be pleased to have surveys made of the chief ports there for the purpose of selecting the best site available there, and making an estimate of the cost of establishing one such harbour?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hughes :—

Answer.—The question of selecting the best site available for a harbour on the West Coast and thereafter of estimating the cost of rendering it capable of receiving and sheltering vessels for trade purposes is now engaging the attention of the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

118 [XXXVI] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is its intention to publish official reports of the tours of His Excellency Lord Ampthill as was done in regard to the tours of some of his predecessors?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—It is not the case that Government has ever published official reports of the tours of Governors and there is no intention of doing so now. Very full accounts of the tours of His Excellency Lord Ampthill were published in the newspapers from day to day.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

119 [XXXVII] *Question.*—(a) Is it a fact that Mr. R. F. Austin, I.C.S., Head Assistant Collector of Malabar, assaulted certain worshippers in a Hindu temple on account of the noise made by the beating of tom-tom?

(b) What were the exact circumstances of the incident?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state what notice it has taken of the conduct of Mr. Austin in this connection?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Government is not in possession of any official information regarding the incident alluded to by the Hon'ble Member.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

120 [XXXVIII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state whether it has received representations from the people of Malabar in reference to the resettlement of the district that is going on and will it place them and the orders passed thereon on the table including all official reports?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—It is the settlement of the district, not a resettlement, that is now in progress. Petitions with reference to the settlement have been received. These were fully considered before final orders on the settlement were issued. They will be found printed with G.Os., Nos. 883, Revenue, dated 29th August 1900, and 167, Revenue, dated 22nd January 1898, which have been published. With the first order are also printed all the official reports on the subject which the Government has made available to the public. A copy of these orders will be supplied to the Hon'ble Member. A petition from the janmis and others has been received since the issue of orders on the scheme of settlement; it in the main reiterates the arguments of the former petitions and the orders passed on it will be made available to the public when issued.

5. MEETING OF THE 27TH AUGUST 1901.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR *for* the Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

* 900, Vol. I, p. 323.

121 [I] *Question.*—With reference to my question No. IX * asked at the meeting of the Council held on the 14th November 1899 regarding the proposed revision of the existing schedule of tax on arts and professions in the District Municipalities Act IV of 1884, and the reply to it, will Government be pleased to state whether any and what decision has been arrived at in the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The matter is still engaging the attention of Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR *for* the Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

† 955, Vol. I, p. 340 and 45 *supra*, p. 16, respectively.

122 [II] *Question.*—With reference to my questions Nos. X and II † asked at the meetings of the Council of the 19th December 1899 and 30th March 1900, respectively, on the necessity of roofing the wooden over-bridges at Tiruválúr and Máyavaram junctions on the South Indian Railway, and the replies thereto, will Government be pleased to call for a report as to whether it is not a fact that native females and children who do not wear shoes are subjected to intense suffering during the hot weather when the wooden pavements of these bridges get heated up?

The Hon'ble Mr. Spring :—

Answer.—No; Government sees no need to call for the report suggested by the Honourable Member.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR *for* the Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

123 [III] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to state the circumstances under which it was recently found necessary to increase the third-class fare for passengers on the South Indian Railway?

The Hon'ble Mr. Spring :—

Answer.—Under the authority of Government of India Resolution No. 228-R.T., dated the 23rd April 1892, third-class fares on the South Indian Railway may be increased up to a maximum of three pies per mile. So long as this maximum is not exceeded, changes in the fares are at the discretion of the Manager of the Railway. Government is not aware of the maximum of three pies per mile having in any case been exceeded on the South Indian Railway. Certain changes in fares have recently been made in order that charges may be more proportionate to the mileage travelled than was possible under the system of rounding-off fares to the next higher anna.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR *for* the Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

124 [IV] *Question.*—(*a*) Whether Government will be pleased to revise the rules framed by it under the Religious Endowments Act XX of 1863 in G.O., No. 960, dated 10th May 1865, and raise the qualifications of the voters in the temple committee elections?

(*b*) Whether Government will be pleased to take executive action under section 7 of the Act and raise the strength of the temple committees by fixing the minimum at fifteen and the maximum at twenty-five?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government has no information which would show that the administration of religious endowments would be improved by raising the qualifications of voters at the temple committee elections. It does not therefore propose at present to take any action in that direction.

(*b*) The Government has no power under Act XX of 1863 to alter the constitution of the committees appointed once for all under section 7 of the Act.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR *for* the Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

125 [V] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to remove the District Munsif's Court from Udipi (South Canara) to some other district, and, if so, will Government be pleased to take into consideration the wishes of the people concerned in favour of its retention, and the circumstance that this Court has been located at Udipi from 1816, before coming to a decision ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—No proposal to remove the District Munsif's Court in question has come before Government. Under section 5 of the Madras Civil Courts Act, 1873, the location of a District Munsif's Court rests with the High Court and not with Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR *for* the Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

126 [VI] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that a fee is being newly charged for inspection by the public of the rain register and the meteorological statistics at Ootacamund contrary to the practice hitherto obtaining ?

(*b*) If so, will Government be pleased to state the circumstances under which a fee is being newly levied ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The meteorological station at Ootacamund was opened on the 8th June last. No registers are maintained for inspection by the public. A copy of the observations is daily posted in a conspicuous public place. Separate copies of the observations are supplied to private persons at a monthly charge of two rupees.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR *for* the Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

127 [VII] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the correspondence appearing in the *Madras Standard*, of the 11th July 1901, under the heading of "A Remarkable Incident," and whether it is a fact that a Brahman lad was arrested at the Peralam junction station (S.I.R.) and put up for prosecution for being in possession of a rupee worth of a native medicine (லேகியம் or an electuary) on the ground of an alleged admixture in it of some ganja (an intoxicating leaf), as he happened to travel on the Karikal-Peralam line through the French territories ?

(*b*) Whether carrying of substances intended for personal use as medicines from the French into British territories is prohibited ?

(*c*) Whether Government will be pleased to direct an inquiry to be made into the incident referred to in clause (*a*) of this question, and obtain a report ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government has perused the article. The statement that the person was arrested and prosecuted is not correct. He was allowed to proceed on his journey on undertaking to appear when called for.

(*b*) Under a notification of the Government of India, dated the 12th February 1897, the bringing or taking by sea or land into the territories administered by this Government of intoxicating drugs prepared from the hemp plant is prohibited.

(*c*) The drug was forwarded to the Board of Revenue for analysis by the Chemical Examiner. It has been since reported that on analysis the electuary was found not to contain ganja.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR *for* the Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

128 [VIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Whether, in view of the fact that Courtallam (Tinnevelly) is a sanitarium largely resorted to by the Europeans, as well as the

natives, Government will be pleased to take into consideration the desirability of making it a union in conjunction with the adjacent villages of Ilangi and Casamajorpuram, etc., or of including it in the existing union of Tenkási ?

(*b*) If either of the above suggestions cannot be adopted, will Government be pleased to take steps for making adequate arrangements for the conservancy and sanitation of the place ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes:—

Answer.—A report on the subject will be called for from the District Board of Tinnevelly.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR *for* the Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

129 [IX] *Question.*—(*a*) Whether there is any proposal by the Inspector-General of Registration pending before Government to open a central record office at each district head-quarters for transferring to it from the several sub-registry offices registers of documents twelve years and more old ?

(*b*) Whether steps will be taken to give early effect to the above proposals, if any, in view to relieving the congestion of records in the office of sub-registrars ?

(*c*) Whether, in that event, arrangements will be made for granting copies of documents to parties by the central office through the sub-registrars concerned ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—No such proposal has been received by Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR *for* the Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

130 [X] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the Ramnad head-assistant division in Madura has had during the course of a single year no fewer than six head-assistant collectors in Messrs. Banerjee, MacIver, Hughes, Fotheringham, Huggins and Moore ?

(*b*) If so, will Government be pleased to take steps to prevent a recurrence of similar changes in future as far as practicable ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) It is not a fact that there have been six head-assistants in Madura in the course of any single year recently. There have been five officers in charge of this office during the last two years and eight months, of whom one was a junior officer who held it for twenty-one days pending the arrival of another officer.

(*b*) Government does all it can to prevent the occurrence of such charges.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR *for* the Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

131 [XI] *Question.*—(*a*) Whether, as reported in a telegram to the *Hindu*, dated 15th June 1901, it is a fact that on 15th June 1901 about 400 houses were burnt in Rámésvaram with the loss of one life and some property ?

(*b*) What is the cause of the disaster, if any, as far as it is ascertainable ?

(*c*) Whether any and what relief measures have been adopted ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—A copy of the District Magistrate's report on the subject will be furnished to the Honourable Member.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR *for* the Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

132 [XII] *Question.*—Whether, in view of the fact that all the accused in the *Ranga Reddi* murder appeal have been acquitted by the High Court, Government has taken any steps towards the detection of the real culprits, and if not, whether it will be pleased to offer adequate special rewards to that end ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—All possible steps for the detection of the crime have been already taken. The case is not one in which the offer of a pecuniary reward is calculated to produce any new evidence entitled to credence.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR *for* the Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

133 [XIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to numerous cases of drowning in the Parthasarathy temple tank at Triplicane (Madras), which are constantly happening, including the latest case of drowning of the son of the Cuddapah District Superintendent of Police?

(*b*) Whether the temple authorities have been directed to take any and what precautionary steps to prevent such accidents?

(*c*) Whether Government will be pleased to issue orders in view to the planting of iron railings inside the tank, leaving sufficient interval of water space for bathing purposes?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer to this part of the question is in the negative.

(*b*) The Government has no information on the point.

(*c*) The attention of the President, Municipal Commission, Madras, will be drawn to the Honourable Member's interrogation and to the provisions of section 302 of the City of Madras Municipal Act.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR *for* the Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

134 [XIV] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that during the last eleven years since 1890 there have been no less than eleven changes in the *personnel* of the Collectorate of Sea Customs in the presidency town of Madras?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the Chamber of Commerce at Madras, so long ago as 1894, addressed Government pointing out the evils arising from the practice of frequent changes in the incumbents of the office and the inefficient administration resulting in consequence, and that Government was pleased to reply that "the question will be considered when a vacancy occurs"?

(*c*) Is it a fact that after the above reply was made by Government of the eleven changes referred to in clause (*a*) of this question, eight have taken place since 1895, giving on an average a change of officer every seven or eight months?

(*d*) Will Government be pleased to state whether the question was considered by it as promised in its reply to the Chamber of Commerce, and why it was unable to give any redress in the matter?

(*e*) Will Government be now pleased to give a favourable consideration to the representation of the Chamber of Commerce and devise measures to prevent a recurrence of the evil pointed out?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The fact is not as stated. Since 1890 ten officers have held the appointment and there have therefore been nine changes in the *personnel*. Of the officers who held the appointment, one occupied it for four years and eight months.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) No. Seven officers have held the appointment since 1895. One of these occupied it for one year and six months, a second for one year and eight months and a third for nineteen days as a purely temporary and unavoidable arrangement. The changes since 1895 have been caused by the promotions to the Board of Revenue of the officers who held the appointment.

(*d*) The question was considered and Government was satisfied that the arrangement made was the best.

(*e*) Government has given full consideration to the representations of the Chamber of Commerce in making appointments to the office.

13

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR *for* the Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

135 [XV] *Question*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the Commercial school at Calicut is to be removed from that place shortly ?

(*b*) If so, will Government be pleased to consider the expediency of locating it at Negapatam, which is an important commercial centre on the east coast ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Government has no present intention of removing the school from Calicut.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

136 [XVI] *Question*.—With reference to the observations made by the Hon'ble Mr. Arundel at the meeting of the Council held on 2nd April 1901, on the question of the reorganization of the Madras Law College, namely, "Proposals have gone to the Government of India, and as soon as orders are received they will, I hope, be popular and give satisfaction to the Honourable Member," will the Government be pleased to state if any orders have been received on the subject, and if so, place the same on the table ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—Orders have been received and an extract therefrom will be laid on the table. The proposals for the future administration of the college are still under discussion.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

137 [XVII] *Question*.—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the letter of a correspondent printed at page 5 of the *Hindu* newspaper of 6th August 1901, in which it is stated, "the District Magistrate has issued a circular to the subordinate magistracy that in imposing fines on the accused in forest cases the amount of fines should under no circumstances be less than what is fixed by the District Forest officer as compensation for compounding the offence" ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state, after inquiry, if this is a fact, and if so, will the Government be pleased to direct the District Magistrate to withdraw such circular, as it leaves practically to the District Forest officer, who is the prosecutor in forest cases, the determination of the quantum of punishment to be imposed in such cases ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Government has now perused the portion of the letter referred to and has called for a report from the District Magistrate upon the subject.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

138 [XVIII] *Question*.—(*a*) Is it a fact, as stated in the *Hindu* newspaper of the 23rd July 1901, that the Inspector-General of Registration has made a proposal to Government to abolish the post of night watchman in registration offices on grounds of economy, and to arrange for the peon of the office sleeping at nights in the premises in place of the night watchman by paying him an extra allowance of one or two rupees ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to refuse sanction to such proposal, if made, in consideration of the immense value to the public of the records in registration offices, the great probability of the peon who works all the day in the office being useless as a night watchman, and the insignificant economy that could possibly be effected if such a proposal were adopted ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) No proposal of the sweeping character suggested has been made. The Inspector-General of Registration has suggested the practicability of dispensing with night watchmen in a few of the minor offices, but his formal proposals in the matter have not yet been received.

(*b*) The subject will receive due consideration on receipt of the Inspector-General's proposals.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

139 [XIX] *Question*.—In view to the continuing distress in Jammalamadugu, Pulivendla and certain other parts of the Cuddapah district, will the Government be pleased to continue the weavers' relief in Jammalamadugu, and arrange to start and put in operation relief works in the other necessary tracts, till such time as a return of favourable season may ensure labour to the working classes ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—As regards the weavers of Jammalamadugu it was found that their employment by the Government was disorganising the relations between them and the master weavers for whom they ordinarily worked : there was also ground to believe that the trade demand for the turbands woven by this community had revived, and that it was no longer advisable that the Government should interpose as an intermediary between the weaver and the dealer. For these reasons the Government decided to discontinue from the 31st July the State employment of the weavers. Mr. Atkinson, of the Board of Revenue, has recently visited Jammalamadugu and the Government proposes to await his report before deciding whether there is any present need for inaugurating any special measures of State relief for this class.

With regard to the other classes of the community in Cuddapah test works were opened, but these failed to establish the existence of famine conditions or to justify the opening of regular relief works under the Famine Code.

Mr. Atkinson, writing on the 19th instant after visiting the Jammalamadugu and Pulivendla taluks, gives the following description of the present state of things :—

"I arrived at Muddanur, Jammalamadugu taluk, on the morning of 14th, and since then I have seen a few villages of that taluk, and a great part of the Pulivendla taluk. I have made house-to-house inspection in thirteen villages, and numbered the inhabitants present at the time of my visit in these and five or six other villages.

"The villages are widely separated and small ; the population almost entirely of the cultivating castes ; very few Pariahs, and of those many are Christians and supported in part by the mission ; the few chucklers are generally village servants or employed by the cultivators . . . I have not seen a single case of emaciation or anything approaching it ; a very few men and boys rather fine drawn, but those almost without exception among the cultivating castes. The only houses in which I have found no grain at all have been a few of the cultivating castes, generally belonging to widows with young children or old people incapable of work. Village charity is certainly not extinct yet.

"The only field work going on at present is under wells and channels. The red cholam harvest—a garden crop—is just closing, the area has been small but outturn good ; in most villages I see considerable stocks of straw. Now the ryots are busy with korra—a 70 days' crop—under wells, and they will soon begin with ragi in the fields where they have just reaped red cholam. But the staple crop is cholam to be sown in September on dry lands. Thousands of acres are waiting for this, an odd plough or two here and there at work ; but till rain falls nothing can be done.

"The labouring classes proper are very few in numbers; but till rain falls there is not employment enough for every one; and so though there is no very loud demand for Government works as yet, those works (ordinary) that are opened are attracting a good number of people. The Collector opened a work—Pedda Pasupula channel—near Jammalamadugu a few days ago and the last reports say that 900 (since reduced according to later reports to 400) persons are employed. This is on intermediate piece-work system. This morning I inspected a tank under the Public Works Department opened on Saturday (17th) on the same system. On Saturday the numbers were 100; this morning I should say there were 600. . . . I had a good look at the coolies . . . . They were nearly all caste people and all looked healthy and well-fed except perhaps a few growing lads of 14 to 17 years of age.

"There is of course a residuum of 'incapables' and where comparatively numerous, they are having a hard time. I have authorized the Collector to open two kitchens for these, one at Surabhu, not far from this place, and one close to Pulivendla at a place called Royalapuram. * * *

"The general situation in this division is that if the August-September rains permit sowing of the cholam crop before the end of that month (September) and if there be the ordinary rainfall in the remaining months of the year all will be well."

That is Mr. Atkinson's description of the present situation. Previously to this the Tahsildar of Pulivendla and the Deputy Collector of the Jammalamadugu division had also made a personal inspection of these two taluks in the end of July, and their reports are to the same effect.

Arrangements have been made to give as much employment as practicable by carrying out ordinary minor irrigation and local fund works; and authority has been given to the Board of Revenue to open kitchens to relieve destitute children, and old and helpless people, without able-bodied relatives to support them, who are turned adrift by the contraction of private charity.

The situation is being carefully watched. So far however the season promises not unfavourably.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

140 [XX] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state if it has received any reports as to the working of Madras Act IV of 1899 (an Act to amend the Court of Wards Regulation V of 1804) since it was put into force, with respect to the two estates, Karvetnagar and Kálahasti, and if so, will it be pleased to place the same on the table so far as it may be convenient to publish?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to obtain and place on the table detailed reports since the commencement of Madras Act IV of 1899 as to —

(i) what has been done up to now in pursuance to the Act in the two estates of Karvetnagar and Kálahasti;

(ii) whether any, and if so, what amount of debts has been liquidated in each of the two estates named;

(iii) whether the Government has formed any, and if so, what estimate as to the probable time it would take to liquidate fully the debts and liabilities in each of the two estates?

(*c*) In view to the proposed consolidation and re-enactment of the law relating to the Court of Wards, will the Government be pleased to obtain and place on the table information as to whether any difficulty or inconvenience has been experienced in working the several provisions of Act IV of 1899, and if so, in what respects?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer—(*a*) & (*b*) The Court of Wards' administration report for 1899–1900 contains all the information on the subject that has been published. The Government has recently learnt that the Court does not propose to take steps under section 7 (38) of Madras Act IV of 1899 to relinquish the management of the estates, which the Court will therefore continue to administer under the Act. No further information can at present be given.

(*c*) The Government sees no reason to call for any special report on the subject. The Board has already been requested to report on the provisions of the Bill referred to by the Honourable Member.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

141 [XXI] *Question*.—Will the Government be pleased to state when it will be possible to take up the work of the proposed Midkur branch of the Kurnool-Cuddapah canal, and also state the cause of the delay in undertaking the work?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hughes :—

Answer.—It is not possible to say at present when the work can be taken up. The cause of delay is a reference which has been made to the Government of India on certain questions connected with the water-supply of the Tungabhadra river.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

142 [XXII] *Question*.—(*a*) Is the public impression, as reported in newspapers, that there is an unusual increase in the number of emigrants in recent years, and especially during the current year, in the Chingleput and North Arcot districts correct? Has the Government ascertained the cause thereof, and if so, will it be pleased to state the same?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to furnish a statement as to the number of people that emigrated from each of the districts of North Arcot and Chingleput in each of the five years preceding 1st April 1901, and also a similar return for the period from 1st April to 31st July 1901?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government is not aware that there has been any considerable increase in the number of emigrants from North Arcot and Chingleput of recent years. No information is available as to the total number of persons who emigrate annually from those districts. Except in the case of emigrants to Natal and Mauritius, who are registered before they leave the country, the emigration statistics do not show the districts to which the emigrants belong.

(*b*) The number of persons who emigrated to Natal and Mauritius from the two districts named during the last five years is as follows :—

	Chingleput.	North Arcot.
1896	206	793
1897	25	329
1898	144	958
1899	...	...
1900	373	684

No statistics have been received for any part of the current year.

Emigration to Natal and Mauritius was closed in 1899.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

143 [XXIII] *Question*.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is in contemplation to abolish the "intermediate class" of carriages in the portion of the East Coast Railway under the management of the Madras Railway Company?

The Hon'ble Mr. Spring :—

Answer.—The answer is in the negative.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

144 [XXIV] *Question*.—Will the Government be pleased to place on the table the report and final orders in the Ganjám defalcation case? What is the total amount lost, and what steps, if any, are being taken to recover the same?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The trial of the persons guilty of the defalcation was reported at great length in the daily papers at the time. The Government does not consider it necessary or expedient to publish any further information on the subject.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

145 [XXV] *Question*.—Has the attention of the Government been drawn to an article in the *Hindu* newspaper of the 13th August 1901 wherein it is stated that the long-standing practice of circulating meeting papers to the members of District Board and Municipality was discontinued under orders of the President, District Board, Chingleput, and the Chairman, Municipal Council, Conjeeveram?

Will the Government be pleased to consider the advisability and usefulness of previous circulation of papers and issue instructions in the matter for the guidance of local and municipal bodies in the presidency?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—Government has been made aware of the matter in question. Under the law the Chairman for Municipal Councils and the President and Vice-President for local boards have the custody of records and proceedings, and discretion as to the circulation of papers must rest entirely with these officers.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

146 [XXVI] *Question*.—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the letters published in the *Madras Mail* of dates 20th, 27th, and 30th July 1901 and 6th August 1901 over the names of Messrs. Macfarlane, Beattie, Kuppuswami Aiyangar and Scudder, respectively, and the leading article in the issue of the 24th July 1901 regarding the state of the season in the North Arcot, Chingleput and Cuddapah districts?

(*b*) What are the "normal" and "scarcity" rates fixed by Government under chapter I, rule 2, of the Madras Famine Code for each of the districts of North Arcot, Chingleput and Cuddapah in respect to the following food-grains: rice, ragi, cholam and cumbu?

(*c*) Have the prices of the said food-grains reached or exceeded the prescribed "scarcity" rates in all or any of the said districts; and, if they have exceeded, by how much in each of the said districts, and in respect to what grains, and since what time?

(*d*) Is the principle enunciated in chapter I, rule 2, of the Madras Famine Code, quoted below, still adhered to as the guiding principle for the introduction of relief measures?—

> *Chapter I, Rule 2*.—"As a rule it is to be understood that a rise to the 'scarcity rates' from time to time fixed by Government, in the staple food-grain or grains of the district is a sure indication of the existence of severe scarcity calling for the immediate introduction of relief measures."

(*e*) If the prices have reached or exceeded scarcity rates in all or any of the districts stated above, will the Government be pleased to state what relief operations were started in the said districts, since when, and whether they continue or have been given up? If they have been given up, will it also be pleased to state for what reason?

(*f*) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is in contemplation to start fresh relief works in all or any of the said districts, and if so state the nature thereof?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer to this portion of the question is in the affirmative.

(*b*) The rates provisionally fixed in 1896 for five years will be found in G.O., No. 306, dated 2nd July 1896, which has been published, and a copy of which will be placed on the table.

(*c*) The Honourable Member will find the detailed information he asks for by comparing the prices published weekly in the *Fort St. George Gazette* with those fixed in the Government order just referred to. Speaking generally the prices of ragi and cumbu have been at or dearer than the scarcity rates in Cuddapah and North Arcot since December 1899, and the price of cholam has been dearer than its scarcity rate in Cuddapah since the same date.

(*d*) The rule is not universally applicable.
Experience has shown that the rise of prices to the assumed scarcity rate is not an absolute criterion of the necessity for granting relief. A test work has been found to be a better criterion.

(*e*) & (*f*) As regards Cuddapah, the Honourable Member is referred to the answer to Question XIX.*

* 139 *supra*, p. 51.

In North Arcot a test work was started on the 12th April 1901 in the Wallajah taluk, where distress was represented to be most severe but the numbers attending it did not justify its continuance or the opening of other works. The work was closed accordingly on the 10th June last. The Board of Revenue has been authorised to open kitchens in the three districts, to provide for destitute children and old and helpless people without able-bodied relatives to support them. No test works have been found necessary in Chingleput. With regard to other relief operations in the past in these districts the Honourable Member is referred to the fortnightly narratives which have from time to time been placed on the Editors' Table.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur Jambulingam Mudaliyar :—

147 [XXVII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact, as stated in the letter of the *Madras Mail's* "own correspondent" published at page 5 of the issue of the said newspaper of date 23rd July 1901, that Mr. J. N. Atkinson, member of the Board of Revenue, was on an official visit to the North Arcot district, and arranged to meet in conference at Vellore on the 23rd July 1901 the missionaries of the district, as well as divisional-officers and the present and previous Sub-Collectors of the district, and "all who may be acquainted with the circumstances prevailing," to hear the condition of the people of the district?

(*b*) If the said conference was held, will the Government be pleased to state the result of that conference, and the views as to the condition of the district formed by Mr. Atkinson after hearing the statements and representations of the members of the said conference?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—Mr. Atkinson has visited the North Arcot district and made enquiries concerning the condition of the people. The Government has no detailed information as to the individuals he conferred with on the subject, or whether any formal conference was held. But the most recent reports of the Collector and the Board will be placed on the table (B.P., No. 167, dated 5th August 1901).

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

148 [XXVIII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state at what stage the project of constructing a light railway from Kurnool Road Station to Kurnool is at present? Considering the importance of connecting the district head-quarters with railway, and the great hardship that is now undergone in travelling thirty-three miles in bullock or pony transits, will the Government be pleased to take early measures to complete the said railway?

The Hon'ble Mr. Spring :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to G.O., Nos. 1132—34 L., dated the 12th July 1901, a copy of which will be furnished to him.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

149 [XXIX] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state what progress has been made in the Chapad irrigation project (Cuddapah district)? Will the Government state the probable time within which the project may be completed?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hughes :—

Answer.—The estimate for the Chapad project is Rs. 5,25,000 and expenditure to end of last year Rs. 1,7 ,415. The grant for the current year is Rs. 1,10,700. At the present rate of progress it will take about three years to complete the work.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

150 [XXX] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to place on the table the correspondence that may have taken place between this Government and the Government of India and the Secretary of State regarding the framing of Bill I of 1901 (Madras Court of Wards Bill) and also any opinions collected in the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The correspondence with the Government of India and the Secretary of State cannot be placed on the table without the sanction of those authorities.

The report of the Board of Revenue with a first draft of what is now the present Bill will be placed on the table, as embodying the general opinion of the Board as constituted in 1894 as to the direction in which the law required amendment.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR *for* the Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

151 [XXXI] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the resolution passed by the second North Arcot district conference held in April 1901, suggesting the appointment of a non-official as Vice-President of the District Board?

(*b*) Is Government aware that there are competent non-official gentlemen in North Arcot, Bellary, Nellore and Kurnool districts willing to be appointed Vice-Presidents of District Boards?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to call for proposals from the Presidents of the said districts for appointing non-official Vice-Presidents?

(*d*) Will Government be pleased to appoint non-official Presidents for a few select Taluk Boards in this presidency?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) No.

(*b*) The Government has no information on the subject.

(*c*) The matter will be considered.

(*d*) The Government does not propose making any such appointment at present.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR *for* the Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

152 [XXXII] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the papers connected with the proposal to split the Gódávari and Kistna districts into three districts and give the people concerned an opportunity to state their views in reference to the said proposal before final orders are passed thereon ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The project is not yet ripe for discussion, but G.O., No. 503, Revenue, dated 14th June 1901, will be laid on the table.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR *for* the Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

153 [XXXIII] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to lay on the table all the papers connected with the distribution of the civil and criminal work of the Bellary and Anantapur districts between the District and Sessions Judges of Bellary and Kurnool ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—Copies of G.O., No. 1414, Judicial, dated 4th September 1899 and G.O., No. 1776, Judicial, dated 6th November 1899, will be laid on the table.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR *for* the Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

154 [XXXIV] *Question.*—(*a*) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table G.O., No.120, Revenue, dated 23rd January 1884 ?

(*b*) Has the Secretary of State made any proposal or issued any rule that the increase to be made in the case of an individual holding at any revision settlement on account of a rise in prices shall not exceed fifteen per cent. ? Has the said proposal been carried out or rule enforced in the revision resettlements of the Gódávari and Kistna districts ? If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) This request has been refused * both in 1895 and in 1897 as the Honourable Member may learn from the proceedings of the Legislative Council for those years: and the Government sees no reason to alter that decision.

(*b*) The Secretary of State, after full discussion, has on the contrary declared that no such pledge or promise should be given.

* 254 and 255, 256, 269 & 491, Vol. I, pp. 98, 99, 106 & 177 respectively.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR *for* the Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

155 [XXXV] *Question.*—Has the final report on the introduction of resettlement into the Gódávari and Kistna districts been received ? If so, will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement containing the information asked for in question No. XXVII (*b*) † put by me at the meeting of the Council held on the 2nd April 1901 ?

† 109 *supra*, p. 42.

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The final report on the resettlement of the Gódávari and Kistna districts has not yet been received.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR *for* the Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

156 [XXXVI] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it the case that water-rate is levied in the Gódávari district on —

(i) padugais and lankas when water is taken from the Gódávari river for growing tobacco or other crop ;

(ii) dry land for a third irrigated crop ; and

(iii) the area covered by tanks which are excavated at the expense of ryots for storing water, during the closure of the canals for irrigating seed beds or gardens which pay water-tax to Government?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the orders authorizing the levy of water-rate in the above cases?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) (i) & (ii) Under the rules water-rate is leviable in these cases and the Government presumes that it is levied.

(*a*) (iii) The Government does not fully understand the case as put; but if the areas referred to are assessed areas within the boundaries of the ryots' putta holding and are used to impound water taken from a Government source, water-rate will be leviable.

(*b*) The Honourable Member is referred to the water-rate rules contained in the Standing Orders of the Board of Revenue.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR *for* the Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

157 [XXXVII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the procedure now adopted for the localization of "mamool wet" and for the determination of the extent to be recognized as "mamool wet" in non-Government villages in the Gódávari district is opposed to the practice followed in Government villages and to the principles laid down in Standing Order No. 60 of 1865, B.P. No. 5666, dated 13th September 1865, B.P. No. 83, dated 21st January 1873, and Standing Order No. 124?

(*b*) Is it the case that the change made in the method of determining the excess area has affected several inamdars and ryots most prejudicially, and that the water-rate now demanded absorbs in some cases the whole of the net profits? Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the papers relating to the subject and direct an inquiry by the Collector into the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Standing Orders quoted contain instructions as to the assessment of such areas in the possession of minor inamdars as may be discovered on survey to be in excess of the area entered in their title-deeds. "Mamool wet" is the term usually employed to denote the area in minor inam land, in a whole inam village or in a zamindari, which is entitled to free irrigation. To localise areas of "mamool wet" certain methods have been adopted, which have regard to the terms of the title-deeds and grants of the tenures in question. These methods are distinct from the procedure in the Standing Orders quoted which regulate a different matter.

(*b*) The measures taken to localise "mamool wet" are not calculated to affect the ryots prejudicially, nor does the Government believe that the water-rate is, in any case excessive. No complaints have reached the Government, and the Government is not aware of any reason for directing an inquiry, nor of any useful purpose that would be served by publishing any papers on the subject.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR *for* the Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

158 [XXXVIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it the case that for the efficient irrigation of certain parts of the Gódávari delta it is necessary to construct locks—

(i) between Vella and Manjeru on the Coringa canal;

(ii) at Manjeru on the junction canal;

(iii) at the commencement of the Bank canal western delta?

(*b*) If so, will Government be pleased to call for a report on the subject and make provision for the construction of the said locks at an early date?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hughes :—

Answer.—The Government has no reason to think that locks are required at the places mentioned on the Coringa and Junction canals in the Gódávari Eastern delta and on the Bank canal in the Western delta.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR *for* the Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

159 [XXXIX] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to state in what stage the Thokapalli and Velgode irrigation projects in the Kurnool district are and when they will be taken on hand?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hughes :—

Answer.—The estimate for the Thokapalli project has just been submitted by the Superintending Engineer, and has not been laid before Government. The estimate for the Velgode project is expected to be submitted in about two months. It is at present impossible to say when the works will be sanctioned and put in hand.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR *for* the Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

160 [XL] *Question.*—Has the attention of Government been drawn to the marginally-noted resolution passed by the second North Arcot district conference held in April 1901?

"That, in the opinion of this conference, the forest rules are being so administered in this district as to subordinate the needs and interests of the ryot population to fiscal interests, and that the close proximity of the forest reserve boundary to inhabited and cultivated tracts has become a permanent source of hardship to ryots and of friction between them and the forest subordinates.

"This conference respectfully suggests that early steps be taken to alter the positions of forest reserve stones in relation to the ryots' holdings under pattas, village sites and public roads, so as to give full effect to the one mile rule laid down by the Madras Government."

Will Government be pleased to direct the inquiry into the matters referred to in the resolution?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—As to the first part of the question, a copy of the resolution was forwarded to Government. As regards the latter part of the question, in consequence of representations made to His Excellency the Governor when he visited North Arcot, a Member of the Board of Revenue made a local enquiry in regard to cases of alleged hardship and Government awaits his report. Any further specific instances of alleged hardship will be duly enquired into by the Collector and the Board of Revenue if the circumstances are brought to their notice.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR *for* the Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

161 [XLI] *Question.*—(*a*) Is Government aware that in view to augment forest revenue, the District Forest officer, Anantapur, has introduced a change in the system of disposal of bangle earth approved in B.P., Forest No. 355 (Land Revenue), dated 7th August 1886, and that the said change has been characterized as "arbitrary" by the Collector in his proceedings, D. Dis. No. 1724, dated 22nd June 1901?

(*b*) In view of the remarks made by the Collector in the said proceedings, will Government be pleased to instruct the District Forest officer to adhere to the authorized system and to compensate the aggrieved parties at twenty-five rupees per cartload of bangle earth, being the market value thereof?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Government has no information regarding the matter. It is open to any private person thinking himself aggrieved to move the Collector or the Board of Revenue for redress.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR *for* the Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

162 [XLII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it the case that there is a standing order in force in the Anantapur and North Arcot districts that subordinate magistrates should impose in forest prosecutions a fine not less than the composition fee fixed by the district forest officer?

(*b*) When and under what authority was the standing order issued?

(*c*) Under what rules is the composition fee fixed by the forest officer and is his assessment subject to any, and what check?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) & (*b*) Government has no information on the subject but will call for a report.

(*c*) By rules made under section 63 (*a*) of the Madras Forest Act, 1882 the authority to compound for forest offences is restricted to officers of, and above the rank of extra Assistant Conservator. The officer exercising the power is required to record a statement setting forth the circumstances of the case and the sum settled as composition. A copy of the statement must be submitted to the Collector through the the District Forest officer. The Government has on several occasions drawn attention to the principles that should guide officers in compounding for forest offences and believes that these principles are now generally understood and acted upon. The Honourable Member will find them referred to in paragraph 14 of G.O., No. 569, dated 13th July 1897—a Government Order that has been published.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR *for* the Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

163 [XLIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Whether leaves for manure are sold to contractors by the Forest department in the Adóni taluk, Bellary district?

(*b*) In view of Dr. Voelcker's opinion that the present system of cultivation in this country is, "one of gradual soil exhaustion which must end in a decline, slow it may be, but still a decline, of fertility and productive power," will Government be pleased to consider the desirability of leaving leaves for manure for free use on land by the local agricultural community, so far as is necessary to meet local requirements?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) It is possible that leaves useful as manure are so sold from the reserves; but the Government has no definite information on the point. On unreserved lands such minor produce may, except from certain specified trees, be gathered free.

(*b*) Though the Government does not unreservedly accept Dr. Voelcker's opinion, it has fully considered and bears in mind the wants of the agricultural population in the matter of leaf manure. From unreserved lands, as already stated, leaves may in general be removed free of charge. Removals from the forest reserves are regulated and are charged a small fee, in the interests of the people themselves. Reference to the annual forest administration reports will show that much attention is paid by the forest department to making suitable arrangements for the supply of leaf manure to the ryots.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR *for* the Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

164 [XLIV] *Question.*—Is Government aware that in the Anantapur district village accountants are detained at the taluk stations from four to six months a year, and that the charges they have to incur by reason of such detention exceed in a majority of cases the salaries they receive? Will Government be pleased to make provision for payment of batta to village officers detained on public duty and also to issue stringent orders not to detain them in the taluk stations longer than is absolutely necessary?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Government has no information regarding the first part of the question. The detention of village officers at taluk head-quarters unnecessarily is prohibited by stringent standing orders: and the Collector has full authority to enforce these orders. Government is unable to accept the suggestion that batta should be paid to village officers.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR *for* the Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

165 [XLV] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the orders issued regarding the enfranchisement of village service inams in proprietary estates?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The G.O., No. 53, Revenue, dated 25th January 1901, will be laid on the table.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR *for* the Hon'ble the Rev. Dr. MILLER :—

166 [XLVI] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to say whether any steps—and what steps—have been taken towards remedying the defects of educational administration in this presidency which were pointed out by the Government of India in its order published in the *Gazette of India* of 4th November 1899?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Resolution of the Government of India dealt with numerous educational questions in all the provinces, and has received full attention from this Government. Most of the points which concerned this presidency are still the subject of discussion with the Governor-General in Council. Where it is considered that defects exist all practicable steps are being taken to remedy them; but in these and in the other respects the orders of the Government of India must be awaited.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

167 [XLVII] *Question.*—Does Government contemplate early discontinuance of the manufacture of aluminium ware at the Madras School of Arts in view of the fact that the goods made there are sold in competition with the aluminium products of private enterprise?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to the statement on the subject made by the Hon'ble Mr. Arundel in the Legislative Council on the 2nd April last. The position is not materially altered since then.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

168 [XLVIII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is satisfied that the lowest net price at which the aluminium goods of the School of Arts are sold makes, in every instance, full provision for actual cost, inclusive of a fair allowance for depreciation of the plant, etc., and a reasonable trade profit?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The prices are fixed at such rates as, it is believed, would give a "reasonable trade profit" to private persons or firms entering on the manufacture.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

169 [XLIX] *Question.*—Is it a fact that the Government contemplates the creation of a new Collectorate out of the districts of Gódávari and Kistna?

In view to relief to district officers in consequence of increasing work and in view to economy, will the Government be pleased to consider whether, keeping the existing number of Collectorates, the object cannot be achieved by a readjustment and increase wherever necessary of sub-divisions and tahsildaris in those two districts, as well as throughout this presidency?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to question No. XXXII.*

* 152 *supra*, p. 57.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

170 [L] *Question.*—Is it a fact that recently the executive authorities at Trichinopoly allowed and carried a religious procession along particular streets in Varagulur in spite of an injunction from a civil court prohibiting the passage along those streets of such procession?

Will the Government be pleased to inquire into the circumstances and call for an explanation from the authorities concerned?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Government has no information on the subject, but a report will be called for.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

171 [LI] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state whether the administration by the Court of Wards of the estates of Kálahasti and Karvetnagar, under the Madras Regulation V of 1804 as amended by Madras Act IV of 1899, is satisfactory and in accordance with the expectations entertained when the latter Act was passed?

What is the amount of debts discharged in each by the Court and when does it expect to liquidate all the debts due by the proprietors and to restore to them their estates?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Act has not been in force sufficiently long to enable the Government to express an opinion on the subject.

With reference to the latter part of the question, the Honourable Member is referred to the Court of Wards' administration report for 1899–1900 which contains all the information on the subject that has been published. No further information can be given as to the administration of these private estates beyond the fact that the Court of Wards has felt itself justified in continuing the superintendence under Madras Act IV of 1899.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

172 [LII] *Question.*—Did the present Inspector-General of Police or his predecessor recommend the formation of a separate detective department of police for the detection and prosecution of offences, and has the Government passed orders thereon? If so, will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the papers on the subject?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—Yes. The matter referred to is under the consideration of Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

173 [LIII] *Question.*— (*a*) Is it a fact that in the year 1900 the President of the District Board of South Arcot nominated one K. P. Rayalu Reddiyar as a member of the union panchayat of Kurunjipadi?

(*b*) Is it a fact that this person was committed to the Court of Session by the Assistant Magistrate of South Arcot, in his case No. 66 of 1898, for the offences of dacoity and rioting and that the Sessions Court convicted him of rioting and sentenced him to three weeks' imprisonment and fine, which conviction and sentence were confirmed by the High Court?

(*c*) Is it also a fact that this man was, upon the sanction of the District Judge of South Arcot, convicted by the Head Assistant Magistrate of perjury in a court of justice and sentenced to six weeks' imprisonment and fine, and that the High Court not only confirmed the conviction but also enhanced the sentence by an additional period of two months' imprisonment on the ground that the circumstances of the case were too grave to admit of a light sentence?

(*d*) Is it a fact that in view to the removal of this person from the union, the President of the Taluk Board of Cuddalore made strong representations officially to the President of the District Board?

What action, if any, did the latter officer take on the facts thus officially brought to his notice?

(*e*) Will the Government be pleased to inquire under what circumstances such a man was appointed member of the union panchayat in question, and why he has been allowed to retain his seat if the facts mentioned above were true?

Will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of removing him from his membership of the panchayat?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Government has no information on the subject. A report will be called for from the President of the District Board.

The Hon'ble Mr. Vijayaraghavachariyar :—

174 [LIV] *Question.*—Is the Government in a position to state approximately the number of the British Indian subjects of this presidency that have permanently settled down in South Africa?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Government has no information on the subject.

The Hon'ble Mr. Vijayaraghavachariyar :—

175 [LV] *Question.*—(*a*) Is the Government aware that the train service between Madras and Calicut does not tend to the convenience of the Malabar people and in particular to the people of Calicut, as the only two trains which run between Madras and Calicut arrive at Calicut within 20 minutes of each other and depart therefrom within an hour of each other?

(*b*) Is the Government aware that there is no through train service between Madras and Calicut and that Malabar passengers are obliged to change trains at Podanur at about 2 o'clock in the night as regards one train? Will the Government be pleased to ask the Madras Railway authorities to revise the train service so as to consult the convenience of Malabar people and to attach through-carriages of all the three classes to the trains running to Calicut?

The Hon'ble Mr. Spring :—

Answer.—The subject is under correspondence between the Consulting Engineer for Railways and the Agent of the Madras Railway Company.

The Hon'ble Mr. Vijayaraghavachariyar :—

176 [LVI] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state whether, before the decision of the Secretary of State was obtained to the effect that Malabar was not permanently settled, and before his sanction secured for the introduction therein of the present settlement, an opportunity was given to the people of Malabar to make their representations and whether their representations, if any, were submitted to the Secretary of State?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The views of private persons on the subject were neither invited nor tendered.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

177 [LVII] *Question*.—(*a*) Is it a fact that the Malabar Land Registration Act, being Madras Act III of 1896, was passed as a necessary preliminary and in view to facilitate the resettlement of Malabar ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that when the present settlement of Malabar was begun the registration of titles of the proprietors of janmam estates under the said Act was but partially complete, and if so, will the Government be pleased to state the circumstances under which it was found necessary to begin the settlement operations before the registration of the district under the Act was completed ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Honourable Member is referred to the Statement of Objects and Reasons that accompanied Bill No. 2 of 1895, which became Madras Act III of 1896, and to the discussions in this Council on the Bill.

(*b*) Settlement operations in Malabar began about ten years prior to the passing of Act III of 1896. The introduction of the new rates is now being carried out *pari passu* with the registration of janmam titles. The Honourable Member is in error in supposing it to be necessary that settlement operations should be deferred until after janmam titles have been completely registered throughout the whole district.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

178 [LVIII] *Question*.—Has the Government received, in reference to the settlement that is now going on in Malabar, representations addressed to itself and through it to the Government of India from the Zamorin of Calicut and several other individuals, as well as from several associations and people of various places ?

If so, will the Government be pleased to place them on the table together with the orders passed thereon by itself and by the Government of India ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The last memorial was received through the Board of Revenue on the 8th August. Government hopes to pass orders on the memorials at an early date and the Honourable Member's request will then be considered.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

179 [LIX] *Question*.—(*a*) Is it a fact that when settlement operations began in Palghat taluk there were over two thousand petitions pending disposal under the Malabar Land Registration Act, and that the settlement operations were promptly introduced without these petitions being duly inquired into and disposed of according to law ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that in the taluk of Calicut hundreds of petitions under the said Act were pending disposal when the settlement operations began, and that they were disposed of in a hurry without time being given to the Deputy Collectors to collect and examine them all carefully ?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the amount of increased revenue shown in the rough pattas tendered to the landowners as the result of the present settlement was and is being collected before objections of the parties were heard and final pattas were granted to them ?

(*d*) Did attachment of properties including malikanas of the Zamorin and other Rajas take place in order to realize the amounts shown on these rough pattas ?

(*e*) Is it also a fact that the attachment of malikanas did take place for recovering incidental survey charges for the purpose of registration under the Malabar Land Registration Act?

If so, are such attachments legal and justifiable?

(*f*) Is it a fact that the survey charges apportioned against each landholder included not only the cost of surveying his fields but also the pay of the survey establishment? If so, is it legal?

(*g*) Is it a fact that the Government withheld the payment of malikana to the Rajas and Ranees concerned on the ground that monies were due from them on rough pattas tendered to them in consequence of the new settlement and also as survey charges?

(*h*) Has the Government received any representations from the people of Malabar that the several operations under the Malabar Land Registration Act, and by the settlement officers, as also the coercive processes for the recovery of the new revenue and survey charges, are illegal and causing great hardship?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes:—

Answer (*a*) and (*b*).—The Government has no definite information as to the number of petitions under the Malabar Land Registration Act which were pending in the Palghat and Calicut taluks at the time when the settlement was commenced in those taluks; but it has no reason whatever to suppose that any petition has been disposed of except after due and careful inquiry and in accordance with the law.

It may be explained that there is no reason to postpone the introduction of the settlement until after all janmam titles have been completely registered.

(*c*) There may be such instances. Many futile objections are urged merely to cause delay and this cannot be allowed. If any alteration is made in the rough patta, any excess collection can be readily adjusted.

(*d*) and (*e*) The Government has no information that malikanas have been attached with the object stated.

(*f*) The cost of the surveyors is certainly a part of the cost of a survey. As regards the question of legality the Hon'ble Member is referred to section 17 of Madras Act III of 1896.

(*g*) The Government issued no orders on the subject. One petition was received by Government making a complaint of the nature stated; and the petitioner was asked to address the Collector in the first instance.

(*h*) In some of the petitions received from Malabar regarding the settlement, allegations to the effect stated have been made; but if any individual has any specific complaint that the law regulating the recovery of such charges has been illegally worked, it is open to him to appeal to the Board of Revenue and the Government on the facts of his case. The Government has no reason to believe that if properly worked the law is in itself harsh.

6. MEETING OF THE 17TH FEBRUARY 1902.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

180 [I] *Question*—(*a*) Whether there is any scheme in contemplation to form a special detective branch of the police ?

(*b*) If so, whether it is proposed to form only one party for the whole presidency, or whether a party will be organized for each police division in each district ?

If the former be in contemplation, whether Government will be pleased to take into consideration the desirability of organizing separate detective parties for each police division in the districts ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to a similar question at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 27th August 1901. * The matter is still under consideration and Government is unable at present to make any announcement regarding the details of the scheme.

* 172 *supra*, p. 62.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

181 [II] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to furnish information on the following points in connection with the land revenue settlement in Malabar :—

(1) Names of the taluks in which the janmam registration has been completed ?

(2) Names of the taluks in which the new rates of settlement have been introduced and the dates of such introduction ?

(3) The amounts of the old assessment and the new assessment in such taluks and the percentages of increase ?

(4) Whether in any taluks the new rates have been introduced before the janmam registration has been effected ?

(5) Probable time when the janmam registration will be completed in the other taluks and the new rates introduced ?

(6) The amount of the existing assessment and the expected total increase for the whole district ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(1) The registration of proprietors is practically completed in the taluks of Palghat, Calicut, Kurumbranât and Walavanad.

(2) The settlement has been introduced with effect from fasli 1310 (1900–1901) in 138 desams of Palghat taluk and 94 desams of Calicut taluk, and with effect from fasli 1311 (1901–1902) in 94 desams of Calicut taluk, 341 desams of Kurumbranât taluk and 316 desams of Walavanad taluk.

(3)

Taluks.	Old assessment.	Settlement assessment.	Percentage of enhancement.
	RS.	RS.	
Palghat	2,74,575	5,09,435	85
Calicut	1,35,702	2,11,351	55
Kurumbranât	2,32,394	4,26,554	83
Walavanad	2,36,801	4,86,900	105

(4) The answer is in the negative. Both operations will hereafter proceed as far as possible simultaneously.

(5) Janmam registration will probably be completed and the settlement introduced in Ponnáni and Kóttayam taluks in fasli 1312 (1902–1903); in Ernad taluk in fasli 1313 (1903–1904), and in Chirakkal taluk in fasli 1314 (1904–1905).

(6) The figures for four taluks have already been stated. In Ponnáni and Kóttayam taluks the present assessment is Rs. 4,43,824 and the settlement assessment is estimated at Rs. 8,03,475. No reliable estimate can as yet be framed for Ernad and Chirakkal taluks.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

182 [III] *Question.*— (*a*) Whether any and what measures are in contemplation for the equalization of the revenue divisional charges and whether all existing distinctions of sub-collectors', head assistants' assistants' and deputy collectors' divisions are to be abolished ?

(*b*) Whether a division in charge of a sub-collector hitherto may be held by a deputy collector and *vice versâ ?*

(*c*) Whether it is in contemplation to continue the scales of establishments now existing in the sub-collectors', head assistants', assistants' and deputy collectors' offices, and, if so, whether Government will be pleased to take into consideration the desirability of equalizing the same ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The question of equalizing divisional charges is at present under the consideration of the Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

183 [IV] *Question.*—Whether it is proposed to extend the Steam Boilers Act to the mufassal in the case of private owners of steam engines, and whether any and what fees are proposed to be levied from them ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The fees to be levied are those contained in the schedule to the Act.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

184 [V] *Question.*—Whether, in order to avoid inconvenience and delays, Government will be pleased to invest the sub-registrars of assurances under section 36 of the Indian Registration Act with the power of summoning parties and witnesses whose presence may be necessary for registration of documents ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—Under the rules now in force a registering officer, in order to secure the attendance of a party or witness in connection with the registration of a document, has merely to request the magistrate, within whose jurisdiction the person to be summoned resides, to issue a summons for such person's attendance at the registration office Sub-registrars, if invested with the power to summon witnesses, would have at their disposal no establishment available for serving process. The Honourable Member's proposal would apparently not afford greater advantages in the direction indicated in the question than the existing arrangement regarding which the Government is not aware that any complaint has been made.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

185 [VI] *Question.*—(*a*) Will Government be pleased to state why and under what circumstances the recent election of Rao Bahadur A. Sabhapati Mudaliyar Avargal as Chairman of the Municipal Council of Bellary was vetoed by it ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that this gentleman had been a member of the Municipal Council for twenty years during nine years of which he was its Chairman ?

(*c*) Whether Government received any memorials of protest on the subject from the people of Bellary and whether any and what reply was made to the same ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The election of M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur A. Sabhapati Mudaliyar did not meet with the approval of the Governor in Council. This is required under section 14 (1) (*b*) of Act IV of 1884, as amended by Act III of 1897. It is neither expedient nor necessary to make public the reasons for non-approval.

(*b*) He was appointed a municipal councillor in 1880, but has not sat continuously on the Council. He occupied the position of Chairman for less than five years.

(*c*) Government received a memorial from certain rate-payers of Bellary requesting a reconsideration of the orders but saw no sufficient reasons for reopening the matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

186 [VII] *Question*.—(*a*) What is the cause of the decrease in the number of primary schools shown in the report of the Director of Public Instruction for 1900–1901 ?

(*b*) Have results and fixed grants been paid in full and, if not, will Government provide the funds for fully paying them in future ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer .—(*a*) The fall in the number of primary schools was attributed by the Director partly to the prevalence of distress and epidemics and partly to the inadequate payment of results grants.

(*b*) Results grants have not been paid in full. The fixed grants paid were calculated on similar inadequate payments in previous years. The question of providing funds for fully paying results grants and for increasing the fixed grants is under consideration.

The Hon'ble Mr. PERRAJU PANTULU :—

187 [VIII] *Question*.—(*a*) Will Government be pleased to state how many ryotwari pattadars in this presidency are now involved in debt ?

(*b*) If such information is not available, will Government be pleased to call for it and lay the same on the table ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government is unable to give the information required.

(*b*) The Honourable Member can hardly have considered the magnitude of the inquiry on which he wishes Government to embark. The answer must be in the negative.

The Hon'ble Mr. PERRAJU PANTULU :—

188 [IX] *Question*.—Will Government be pleased to state how much land under ryotwari settlement in this presidency passed into the possession of money-lending and other classes during the last three years ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The information the Honourable Member wants is not available, but he will perhaps be interested to hear that the land revenue reports commencing with that for the revenue year 1900–1901 will contain a statement showing the distribution of arable land among the principal classes of the population. The Honourable Member is no doubt aware that in this presidency the money-lenders are for the most part ryots.

The Hon'ble Mr. Perraju Pantulu :—

189 [X] *Question.*—(*a*) Will Government be pleased to state how many cultivating tenants in the permanently-settled estates of this presidency are now involved in debt?

(*b*) If such information is not available, will Government be pleased to institute an inquiry and publish the result of the same?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) The information is not available.

(*b*) The Government sees no sufficient reason for instituting so vast an inquiry.

The Hon'ble Mr. Perraju Pantulu :—

190 [XI] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to state what is the present number of ryotwari holdings over five acres and up to ten acres in this presidency?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The information is not available.

The Hon'ble Mr. Perraju Pantulu :—

191 [XII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the crop outturns of the staple produce this year are, in quantity, far below normal both in the deltas and upland in the Northern Circars?

(*b*) If so, is Government able to assign any and what cause therefor?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to give the ryots any and what concessions in the collection of the arrears of revenue?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) & (*b*) The answer to (*a*) is in the negative.

(*c*) The Government is of opinion that no concessions are required.

The Hon'ble Mr. Perraju Pantulu :—

192 [XIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is Government aware that in several parts of the Agency tracts in the Northern Circars there prevails what is called *Podu cultivation* for which the hill tribes set fire to the jungle growths with a view to throw seed on the ash-covered land and harvest what they can?

(*b*) Does not that sort of cultivation lead to the destruction of forest wealth and, if so, is Government going to take any steps to prevent it and bring those people into habits of harmless and useful husbandry?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The question of how best to deal with the practice of podu cultivation is one that has long engaged the attention of the Government. Rules, which the Honourable Member will find in the Madras Forest Manual, have been framed under the Forest Act with the object of enabling the Collector to control and limit such cultivation, and of recent years attempts have been made, not without success, to repair the waste of the original forests by inducing the hill tribes to put in seedlings of teak and other valuable species in the areas they clear for cultivation.

The Hon'ble Mr. Perraju Pantulu :—

193 [XIV] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to state how many persons emigrated during the last three years from Vizagapatam and Gódávari districts to South Africa, Burma, Assam and Mauritius under the Emigration Acts or otherwise in order to there find employment?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to the emigration reports for the years 1898, 1899, 1900 in which he will find the statistics regarding South Africa, Burma and Mauritius he asks for. These reports are embodied in G.Os., No. 694, Public, dated 21st June 1899; No. 929, Public, dated 10th September 1900; and No. 609, Public, dated 13th June 1901, copies of which will be placed on the Editors' Table.

The Government has no information regarding the number of persons who went from the districts named to Assam.

The Hon'ble Mr. PERRAJU PANTULU :—

194 [XV] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to allot areas of culturable unoccupied land in convenient localities and publish facilities for the landless labourers in the congested rural parts to settle there and carry on pursuits of agriculture?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The Government is not aware of any considerable areas of culturable unoccupied land suitable for colonisation, nor is there any reason to suppose that any rural parts of this presidency are overpopulated.

The Hon'ble Mr. PERRAJU PANTULU :—

195 [XVI] *Question.*—(*a*) Out of the lands classed as "forest lands" will Government be pleased to state what extent there is which is merely covered with thin scrub and grass where no plantation operations are carried on?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to direct the transfer of such forest areas to the Revenue department for cultivation?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) The information asked for is not available.

(*b*) Land is not constituted reserved forest without careful consideration of the requirements of neighbouring villages in the matter of extension of cultivation and also of the capacity of the land to benefit by the ordinary methods of forest conservancy. In particular cases where the claims of cultivation require it, reserved land may be disafforested. A wholesale abandonment of denuded areas which have been reserved under the Act and are at present covered only with thin scrub would prevent that renewal of forest growth which it is the main object of the Forest Act to secure.

The Hon'ble Mr. PERRAJU PANTULU :—

196 [XVII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is this Government aware of the recent resolution passed by the Government of Bombay on the report of Mr. G. A. Gammie, the officer in charge of the Botanical survey, Bombay Presidency, on the experimental culture of sisal hemp at Nandgaon?

(*b*) Will this Government be pleased to start an experimental culture of the sisal hemp and sabai grass in suitable localities and publish the results for the benefit of the cultivating classes of this presidency?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government has not seen the report or resolution referred to.

(*b*) The Honourable Member will see from the published annual reports of the department of Land Records and Agriculture that experiments in the cultivation of sisal hemp have been in progress since 1898.

The Hon'ble Mr. Perraju Pantulu :—

197 [XVIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Will Government be pleased to state what effect has been given to its decision for the establishment of experimental farms in the presidency?

(*b*) Has Government defined the scope of these experimental farms?

(*c*) Having regard to the opinion recently expressed by Veterinary-Lieutenant Holmes, will Government be pleased to include the improvement of the breed of cattle in the experimental programme?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) Land has been acquired for two farms—one at Bellary and the other at Koilpatti. Shedding has been put up, cattle purchased, labour engaged, and the land is being laid out in a manner suitable for carrying on agricultural investigations and experiments.

(*b*) Yes; the Government is practically following the principles laid down in Dr. Voelcker's work "Improvement of Indian agriculture" for the management of experimental farms.

(*c*) The breeding of cattle on a small scale may possibly become part of the programme in course of time if the farms succeed and expand.

The Hon'ble Mr. Perraju Pantulu :—

198 [XIX] *Question.*—In view to conserve the cattle wealth of the agricultural community and improve the cattle-breeding, will Government be pleased to start cattle farms and inaugurate cattle shows in each district or groups of districts in the presidency?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to the report of the agricultural committee of 1889 and to the Government order thereupon for information as to the circumstances under which the cattle shows which had been held in various places for a series of years were found not to be successful.

Government is not at present prepared to undertake the breeding of cattle and doubts whether the cattle wealth of the agricultural community can be so developed. Where local circumstances permit, most excellent cattle are bred by the ryots and are widely distributed. Where there is scarcity of pasture and fodder, large and powerful cattle are out of place.

The Hon'ble Mr. Perraju Pantulu :—

199 [XX] *Question.*—(*a*) Is Government aware how many date-palms grow wild in this presidency and how many of them are tapped for the manufacture of liquor?

(*b*) Is Government aware that in Bengal the date-palm is used as sugar-producer in several districts and there is a growing industry of manufacturing refined sugar in large quantities out of date-palm juice or date-rab, in so much that about 60,000 acres are now under date cultivation?

(*c*) In view to the opening of a field of profitable labour for the agriculturists and labouring classes of this presidency, will Government be pleased to experiment the manufacture of sugar out of date juice and take steps to introduce such industry into the districts of this presidency?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government has no information as to the number of date trees growing wild in this presidency. 787,022 date trees were tapped for the manufacture of liquor during 1900–1901. The manufacture of jaggery from date toddy is understood and is practised to a small extent in all the districts where the tree is plentiful.

(b) The Government has no detailed information concerning Bengal, but believes the Honourable Member is correct in thinking that date toddy is there much more largely used for the manufacture of jaggery than is the case in Madras.

(c) It does not appear to the Government that there is any need for experiment in the direction suggested. The feasibility of manufacturing jaggery by boiling down the juice of the date-palm is widely known and the tapping of the tree is in common practice.

From the fact that date jaggery is little used the inference is that it cannot compete with the jaggery so largely produced from sugarcane and the palmyrah.

The Hon'ble Mr. PERRAJU PANTULU :—

200 [XXI] *Question.*—(a) Will Government be pleased to state what quantity of mica was shipped from Madras during the last three years?

(b) Has Government any information as to the growth of mica industry in Bengal, and what is known of the probability of large deposits of mica being found in this presidency?

(c) Will Government be pleased to seek expert opinion as to the existence and quality of the Madras mica similar to that which Professor Dunstan, Scientific Director of the Imperial Institute, submitted on Jaipur mica and publish the same for general information?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(a) The Honourable Member is referred to the statistics published at page 74 of the annual volume of sea-borne trade and navigation of the Madras Presidency for 1900–1901.

(b) The Honourable Member will see from the statistics appended to the report on the inspection of mines in India for 1900 published by the Government of India that the output of mica in this presidency was somewhat greater than that in Bengal.

(c) The answer is in the negative; for, as far as the Government is aware, the existence and quality of Madras mica are well known. The Government understands that a memoir on the subject of mica in India will shortly be issued by the Imperial Geological department.

The Hon'ble Mr. PERRAJU PANTULU :—

201 [XXII] *Question.*—In view to the development of the indigenous art industries of this presidency, will Government be pleased to make provision in the budget for the establishment of schools of arts with sale-rooms and show-rooms for the exhibition of the various art industries that are still extant in the rural parts?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The question of developing the indigenous industries of the presidency is now under consideration by the Government of India whose recommendations this Government is awaiting.

The Hon'ble Mr. PERRAJU PANTULU :—

202 [XXIII] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to inaugurate periodical exhibitions of local manufactures in every Collectorate in the presidency and give the village artizans an opportunity of exhibiting their wares?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The experiment has been tried in the past. Such exhibitions cost a good deal and have been found barren of result. The Government, however, is prepared to consider the advisability of repeating the experiment at any time or place where a favourable opportunity may present itself.

The Hon'ble Mr. PERRAJU PANTULU :—

203 [XXIV] *Question.*—In view to the development of the manufacturing capacity of this presidency, will Government be pleased to consider and formulate a scheme for giving advances to the artizans as in the case of the agriculturists?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The Government is not prepared to attempt the preparation of any scheme of the nature indicated.

The Hon'ble Mr. PERRAJU PANTULU :—

204 [XXV] *Question.*—(*a*) Is Government aware that the Bengal Government on the suggestion of Mr. E. B. Havell, Principal of the Calcutta School of Arts, are taking steps to make the use of the fly-shuttle known among the weavers throughout that province and it is now in use in eight districts out of the forty-eight?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to take similar steps as regards this presidency and help the mechanical improvement of the hand-looms which are now in use among the weavers?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government has no information on the subject. The fly-shuttle is, the Government believes, already in use by some weavers in the Madras town and elsewhere.

(*b*) Experiments are in progress at the School of Arts with the object of ascertaining what improvements are practicable in native hand-looms.

The Hon'ble Mr. PERRAJU PANTULU :—

205 [XXVI] *Question.*—(*a*) Is Government aware of the report submitted last year on technical education in Bombay by Dr. Arthur W. Thompson of the Poona College of Science and its having been approved by the Director of Public Instruction and Government of Bombay?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to take steps for the improvement of the primary and secondary education in the village schools of this presidency on the lines suggested in Dr. Thompson's report?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to sanction as a tentative measure the introduction of the subjects of drawing, clay-modelling and wood-work in the important village schools?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) Government is aware of Dr. Thompson's report.

(*b*) & (*c*) The question of improving primary education in this presidency is engaging the attention of Government. As in Bombay, it is one mainly of the provision of funds, and until funds are forthcoming it would be premature to declare what improvements will be practicable.

The Hon'ble Mr. PERRAJU PANTULU :—

206 [XXVII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is Government aware of the resolution of the Bombay Government on the subject of providing practical training in sanitary science for students who have passed through the medical and engineering colleges of that presidency?

(*b*) Having regard to the scarcity of trained sanitary surveyors for employment by the local boards and district municipalities of this presidency, will Government be pleased to take any and what action in this respect?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Government has not seen the resolution of the Bombay Government. Sanitary inspectors in this presidency receive instruction in hygiene. Government is prepared to consider any proposals the Honourable Member desires to make.

The Hon'ble Mr. PERRAJU PANTULU :—

207 [XXVIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Will Government be pleased to state how many bench courts there are in this presidency exercising second-class powers?

(*b*) Having regard to the large number of bench courts exercising only third-class powers for a long time, will Government be pleased to invest them or the most efficient of them with second-class powers?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—There is only one bench court, namely, that at Ootacamund, which has been invested by Government with second-class powers. The other benches are however usually presided over by a sub-magistrate, and except in cases where the sub-magistrate exercises only third-class powers, his presence on the bench gives the court the powers of a second-class magistrate under clause 2, section 15 of the Criminal Procedure Code. Any bench may thus from time to time exercise the powers of a second-class magistrate, and Government does not consider that any general extension of the powers of bench courts is at present necessary.

The Hon'ble Mr. PERRAJU PANTULU :—

208 [XXIX] *Question.*—(*a*) Is Government aware of the practice of referring to the opinion of the Municipal Councils by the Revenue officers, applications for the location of liquor-shops within their limits?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the Revenue officers concerned sanction the location of liquor-shops near markets and other conspicuous places of public resort notwithstanding the protests of the Municipal Councils?

(*c*) In view to minimize the evil of drinking and confining it to obscure places as far as possible, will Government be pleased to direct the revenue authorities concerned not to sanction liquor-shops in places objected to by the municipalities?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) If the fact is so, there will be reasons for their action which the Councils are free to bring to the notice of Government.

(*c*) Government would not be justified in issuing orders as suggested.

The Hon'ble Mr. NORTON :—

209 [XXX] *Question.*—(*a*) Did the Advocate-General apply for, and receive, the permission of Government to appear for the defence in the libel prosecution before the Chief Presidency Magistrate of the "Madras Municipality" *versus* "The Madras Mail"?

(*b*) Are there any and what rules or orders regulating the appearance of the Advocate-General in criminal cases, whether of an original, appellate or revisional nature?

(*c*) If there are not, will the Government, in recollection as well of the powers of the Advocate-General to enter a *nolle prosequi* as of his responsibilities as the chief legal adviser of the Government, take steps to define and limit the right of the Advocate-General to appear whether in original, appellate or revisional cases, against the Crown?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The reply to this part of the question is in the negative.

(*b*) & (*c*) There is a rule that the Advocate-General is not to appear against the Government in any court without special permission.

Clause (*c*) consequently requires no answer.

The Hon'ble Mr. NORTON :—

210 [XXXI] *Question.*—Is the Government aware (*a*) that no ladies' carriage is provided as a matter of course on trains running on the South Indian Railways?

(*b*) That great inconvenience is thereby caused to gentlemen who frequently find one lady in occupation of each first-class compartment?

(*c*) And will the Government take steps to remedy this inconvenience?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The subject of reserved accommodation for ladies on the South Indian Railway is dealt with in rule 101 as below :—

"Rule 101. *Reserved compartments for ladies.*—At terminal or other stations from which trains start, a compartment will be reserved for ladies travelling alone in first or second class carriages on six hours' notice. At other stations twenty-four hours' notice must be given. Such compartments will only be reserved for long journeys involving night travelling between 18 o'clock and 6 o'clock and during other parts of the twenty-four hours, should the ladies hold tickets for distances not less than fifty miles. Boys under twelve years of age may travel in a ladies' compartment, if with relatives or friends."

The objection to invariably reserving a compartment for ladies is that it would generally run empty and the practice would thus be expensive and wasteful.

(*b*) The practice of invariably reserving a compartment for ladies would not meet the inconvenience complained of. A railway company has no power to compel ladies to occupy a compartment reserved for them.

The difficulty could only be met by reserving a compartment for gentlemen, but there has been no public demand for an innovation of this kind.

(*c*) Under the circumstances it does not appear desirable that Government should take steps to remedy this particular inconvenience.

The Hon'ble Mr. NORTON :—

211 [XXXII] *Question.*—Will the Government place on the table a balance sheet and a profit and loss account of the Aluminium department of the School of Arts made up on a purely commercial basis?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—Orders have been given for the preparation of an account of the aluminium work in the School of Arts on a purely commercial basis which will be published in due course.

7. MEETING OF THE 8TH APRIL 1902.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

212 [I] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the letter of M.R.Ry. Raja T. Rama Rao Avargal, High Court Vakil and an ex-member of this Honourable Council, in the *Hindu* and *Madras Mail*, dated the 19th February 1902, complaining that a fellow European passenger travelling with him in the first class by the north-east mail assaulted and handled him roughly ?

(*b*) Has any inquiry been made and with what results ?

(*c*) Are Government in possession of the facts connected with the incident, and if so will they be pleased to state them ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The attention of Government has been drawn to the letter referred to and enquiry is being made. The Government are not yet in possession of the facts connected with the alleged incident.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

213 [II] *Question.*—(*a*) Will Government be pleased to state whether any and what improvements in irrigation have been carried out in the district of Tanjore since the introduction of the new settlement in 1893 in accordance with the recommendation of the Board of Revenue (Proceedings, Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture, No. 719, dated 1st November 1892, paragraph 18), who wrote that "*If the increase of assessment involved in the proposed settlement be imposed, it will certainly become the duty of Government to lay out very considerable sums upon the equitable and economical distribution of water upon which so large a revenue depends*" ?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to state the nature of the improvements carried out and the cost thereof during the last ten years ?

The Hon'ble Colonel Smart :—

Answer.—(*a*) Information regarding the improvements carried out in the district of Tanjore since the introduction of the new settlement in 1893 to the end of 1897–98 is given in the answer * to the question asked by the Honourable Member at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 4th April 1898. Since then the question of the equitable distribution of water in the main branches of the Cauvery and Vennar rivers has been receiving further attention. Estimates for the following works have been sanctioned and are under execution :—

* 668, Vol. I, p. 240.

	Estimate.
	RS.
(1) Conversion of the Cauvery-Kodamurti dam into a regulator.	1,00,000
(2) Improvements to the Lower Coleroon anicut	3,14,000
(3) Altering the Cauvery-Veerasholam dams into a regulator and improving Arasalar-Nattar regulators	7,47,000

In addition to the above other works of lesser importance have also been executed.

(*b*) The improvements carried out are with the object of securing a more effective and equitable distribution of the water-supply and greater security from floods. Revenue maps showing distribution and drainage in the delta have been prepared. The amounts spent on improvements to the Cauvery delta system during the past ten years are as follows :—

Year.	Major improvements.	Minor improvements.	Total.
	RS.	RS.	RS.
1892-93	..	22,994	22,994
1893-94	500	11,859	12,359
1894-95	5,309	8,198	13,507
1895-96	21,605	11,445	33,050
1896-97	34,884	19,576	54,460
1897-98	1,04,029	14,463	1,18,492
1898-99	92,795	17,859	1,10,654
1899-1900	1,16,719	16,911	1,33,630
1900-1901	3,70,399	15,220	3,85,619
1901-1902 up to January	1,24,013	7,757	1,31,770
Total ..	8,70,253	1,46,282	10,16,535

The scheme for the general drainage of the delta is now being checked and will shortly be considered by Government. The cost will probably come to about 12 lakhs. A further investigation with regard to the storage question has been recently ordered.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

214 [III] *Question.*—With reference to the recommendations of Sir Edward Buck, as appears from the report on the operations of the department of Land Records and Agriculture for 1900-1901, that instruction in the elements of agriculture should be made compulsory in primary and lower secondary schools, that minors under the Court of Wards should be given instruction in agriculture, and that the Court of Wards should introduce improved methods of agriculture in the estates under its management, will Government be pleased to state whether any and what measures are being taken to give effect to the proposals?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The reference in the report quoted by the Honourable Member is not quite correct as regards the proposed instruction in agriculture in primary and lower secondary schools. It was nowhere suggested by Sir E. Buck that the teaching of the elements of agriculture should be made compulsory in these schools. It was suggested that the elements of science, bearing chiefly on agriculture, should be taught in primary schools by means of object-lessons and text-books. This is done in this presidency wherever competent teachers are available.

Regarding the suggested instruction of minors under the Court of Wards in agriculture, arrangements are now made for the wards to attend morning field classes at the Saidapet College and also to receive instruction in botany and agriculture at Newington. As to the introduction of improved methods of agriculture into estates under the Court of Wards, the Court has it in contemplation to employ a competent agriculturist for the purpose of supervising generally agricultural operations throughout the estates under its charge and specially attending to the cultivation of homefarm lands and the management of stock.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

215 [IV] *Question.*—(*a*) Will Government be pleased to state whether any and what decision has been arrived at in regard to the proposed location at Tuticorin of the court of the additional Subordinate Judge of Tinnevelly?

(*b*) Is the court to be a permanent or temporary one?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Government have not yet arrived at any decision on the matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

216 [V] *Question.*—(*a*) Having regard to the representations made to His Excellency the Governor during the recent tour in Tanjore by ryots, complaining of the existing system of collecting the kist in four monthly instalments beginning from January, will Government be pleased to order that the old system of eight instalments or any lesser number be adopted ?

(*b*) With reference to the objection mentioned that under any system of a larger number of instalments than four the ryots would be at the mercy of the village karnams regarding the amounts of the instalments, will Government be pleased to consider whether the objection cannot be met by arranging for the ryots being furnished with printed slips in the vernacular containing the amounts due for each instalment ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Government consider the present system to be simple and suitable and no better one has been suggested. The main objection to the old system was that under it the instalments of revenue were unequal and varied in the case of different crops. The Government do not consider the suggestion in clause (*b*) of the question to be practicable.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

217 [VI] *Question.*—(*a*) What is the practice obtaining in regard to the free cutting of babul (karuvai) trees standing on village and channel banks for purposes of implements of agriculture by ryots in Tanjore and other wet districts ?

(*b*) If free cutting is not allowed at present, will Government be pleased to issue orders granting the concession ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) In Tanjore babul trees standing on Government lands which are not reserved under the Forest Act may not be felled except under permits which are issued on payment of the prescribed rates of seigniorage.

(*b*) The Government see no reason to allow the free cutting of such trees on Government land. The supply is by no means large, and unrestricted felling would soon result in the practical extermination of the tree to the grave inconvenience of the community.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

218 [VII] *Question.*—(*a*) Are Government aware that in Tanjore at the period of the old paimash of about the year 1830 there were in each village certain plots of unassessed land called *yerikkattalai* (ஏரிக்கட்டளை) reserved for storage of water for being used for irrigation during scarcity, and that these plots have since been brought under cultivation and assessment?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to take steps for the above lands being exempted from assessment and set apart as reservoirs ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—In some villages there may have been such storage reserves but the conditions in the delta have so largely altered in the last seventy years that the arrangements then in vogue for irrigation would often no longer be appropriate. It is improbable that any tank poramboke has been assigned for cultivation without good reason. In the upland parts of the district tank poramboke is still very extensive in most villages, and there has certainly been no large abandonment of it.

The Hon'ble Mr. Ratnasabhapati Pillai :—

219 [VIII] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to issue orders in view to timely notice being given in the District Gazette of the dates of the sales of land for arrears of land revenue ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Government will enquire whether there is any reason to suppose that the notice given under the existing law and orders is insufficient.

The Hon'ble Mr. Ratnasabhapati Pillai :—

220 [IX] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to issue orders in view to earthworks, etc., connected with the conservancy of rivers and tanks in the Public Works Department being entrusted to the villagers concerned in preference to professional contractors ?

The Hon'ble Colonel Smart :—

Answer.—The works are given out to the villagers in preference to contractors when the former apply for them, but very few applications are made by villagers for works. The Government consider that the practice now in force is all that can be properly adopted and that no special orders are necessary.

The Hon'ble Mr. Ratnasabhapati Pillai :—

221 [X] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to take into consideration the desirability of inviting the Municipalities and District Boards to establish with the aid of Government subsidy technical institutes in each district or group of districts with stipends for pupils upon the model of the institution at Madura ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The subject of industrial education is now engaging the attention of the Government of India, whose recommendations are awaited.

The Hon'ble Mr. Ratnasabhapati Pillai :—

222 [XI] *Question.*— (*a*) Is it a fact that leprosy is prevalent at Srívilliputtúr (Tinnevelly) and whether lepers are allowed to bathe in the *Tirumukakulam* tank, which is resorted to by the general public ?

(*b*) Whether any and what steps have been taken to prevent lepers from having access to the tank, and to provide them with a separate tank or place for bathing ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to G.O., No. 166, Public, dated 15th February 1902, a copy of which will be furnished to him.

The Hon'ble Mr. Ratnasabhapati Pillai :—

223 [XII] *Question.*— (*a*) Whether till now students who had passed in the English and Science branches of the B.A. degree examination were admitted into the 1st B.L. class in the Law College of Madras, and whether such students are refused admission this year in spite of the notifications in the usual form in the *Fort St. George Gazette* ?

(*b*) Under what circumstances the notifications in the Gazette came to be issued, and why the same are not being given effect to ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.— (*a*) The answer to the first part of the question is yes, to the second part no. Such students were refused admission not in spite of the notification of 21st January but in accordance with the revised notification published in the Gazette of the 18th February which stated that applicants for admission to the junior B.L. class must have passed the B.A. degree examination in all three divisions.

(*b*) The first notification was issued in accordance with the existing rules of the Law College. The second one cancelling the first is a consequence of recent changes in the University by-laws under which candidates for the first examination in law must have attended courses of lectures in law for two consecutive terms subsequent to passing the B.A. degree examination. The rules of the Law College are now being brought into accordance with the revised by-laws.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATHI PILLAI :—

224 [XIII] *Question.*— (*a*) How many vacancies in the post of local fund engineers occurred since the issue of the resolution of the Government of Madras of January 1897, which laid down that "Local Boards will have their wants fully and efficiently met by employing engineers locally born and trained or locally trained and that for the future they should recruit their staff from that source"?

(*b*) How many of such vacancies were filled up in accordance with the above resolution, and how many otherwise?

(*c*) If the vacancies have not been filled up in accordance with the above resolution, what were the circumstances under which they were not filled up?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.— (*a*) Thirteen.

(*b*) All but one were filled up in accordance with rules laid down by Government.

(*c*) A departure from the rules was made in one instance, as the person appointed was considered at the time of appointment to be the best of the candidates.

The Hon'ble Mr. PERRAJU PANTULU :—

225 [XIV] *Question.*— (*a*) Have Government any information as to the existence of scarcity or approach of famine conditions in the Ceded districts; if so, will it be laid on the table?

(*b*) Have Government contemplated or been carrying out any relief work in those districts; if so, will preference be given to the execution of village works as defined in section V of the Famine Commission Report, 1901?

(*c*) What is the present average of the outturn of the staple crops in those districts according to the latest information?

(*d*) Will Government be pleased to state how much of the land revenue for the current year has been or will be remitted or suspended in those districts?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.— (*a*) The Government are receiving regular information upon the subject and are watching the situation. They will as usual communicate information of general interest to the press. Famine conditions at present exist nowhere, and prices are below scarcity rates.

(*b*) No necessity for the carrying out of relief works has yet arisen. No need for them has been reported from any of the districts mentioned.

(*c*) The average outturn of the staple crops in all these districts is reported to be generally fair.

(*d*) It is expected that about Rs. 1·59 lakhs will be remitted in Bellary, Rs. 1·53 lakhs in Anantapur, Rs. 3·53 lakhs in Cuddapah and Rs. 0·44 lakh in Kurnool, and that about Rs. 0·96 lakh will be postponed in Bellary. Government have as yet no information regarding probable postponement in the other three districts.

The Hon'ble Mr. PERRAJU PANTULU :—

226 [XV] *Question.*—(*a*) Have the Government of India in their orders on the report of the Famine Commission, 1901, referred to this Government the recommendations in section XX of the report as regards the preservation of cattle ?

(*b*) Have the Madras Government sent any reply ; if so, will it be laid on the table ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The answer is in the negative. It is not to be understood from this reply that section XX of the report has been overlooked. The suggestions it contains will be fully considered.

The Hon'ble Mr. PERRAJU PANTULU :—

227 [XVI] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to order the plantation of drought-resisting fodder plants on a sufficiently large scale in the Ceded districts, and also in other parts of the presidency that are liable to suffer from want of rain ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—If the Honourable Member will state what drought-resisting fodder plants he has in mind, the Government will be happy to consider the suggestion.

The Hon'ble Mr. PERRAJU PANTULU :—

228 [XVII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it the practice in the Gódávari district to sell or otherwise alienate tank-beds and village puntas on the reports of Tahsildars or local officers that their alienation causes no inconvenience to the people, notwithstanding the Board's Standing Order that Government will always look more to people's convenience than to any petty loss of revenue?

(*b*) Having regard to the future development of the villages and the possible needs of the villagers, which cannot now be prejudged, will Government be pleased to express themselves against alienations of such property ?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to pass an order that no portions of the existing village commons or other communal property, such as tanks and puntas, should be alienated, except in the unavoidable and special cases falling under the Land Acquisition Act ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Standing Orders of the Board of Revenue require that a Tahsildar, in whose opinion the grant on patta of unassessed land is open to no objection, shall report the case for the orders of the Divisional officer, whose duty it would be before transferring the land to the head of "assessed" to give every consideration to the present and prospective wants and convenience of the people.

(*b*) & (*c*) The Government see no occasion for general pronouncements of the nature suggested in clauses (*b*) and (*c*) of the Honourable Member's question In individual cases those who object to the grant of some particular plot of unassessed land on patta should represent their views to the Divisional officer and if necessary to appellate authority.

The Hon'ble Mr. PERRAJU PANTULU :—

229 [XVIII] *Question.*—Are Government aware that in very many villages in the deltas of the Gódávari there are no cattle stands for village cattle and, having regard to the importance of preserving cattle in healthy condition, will Government be pleased to call for and separately publish a statement as to the extent of the cattle stands and the number of cattle in the villages in those parts?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Government have not received any complaints concerning the absence of cattle stands in the Gódávari delta. Any such complaints should be addressed to the District officers. It does not follow that the health of cattle will be promoted by congregating them on a public cattle stand. It is a better arrangement practised in many localities for each ryot to stable his cattle on his own holding. No useful purpose would be served by collecting and publishing the statistics suggested in the Honourable Member's question, and the Government cannot undertake to do so.

The Hon'ble Mr. PERRAJU PANTULU :—

230 [XIX] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the indigenous varieties of cotton in this presidency are fast deteriorating during the last few years?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to start an experimental farm in the largest cotton-growing district in the presidency for the growth of the American and Egyptian cotton which now command the English markets and publish the results for the benefit of the agriculturists?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government have no reason to believe that the Honourable Member's apprehension is well-founded.

(*b*) Experimental farms have been started in the Bellary and Tinnevelly districts, whereon the improvement of indigenous varieties of cotton will receive special attention; and the introduction of exotics will not be lost sight of. Results will be published from time to time.

The Hon'ble Mr. PERRAJU PANTULU :—

231 [XX] *Question.*—(*a*) In view to the encouragement and helping of the various local art industries, will Government be pleased to arrange with the railway companies for publication in their guides of the description and prices of the articles procurable in the vicinity of the railway stations?

(*b*) In order to enable Indian workmen and artizans to exploit their wares, will Government be pleased to arrange with the railway companies to provide depots for exhibiting suitable articles at the railway stations and selling them on commission for the reasonable or fixed prices on account of and for the benefit of the workmen and artizans?

The Hon'ble Colonel Smart :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government have ascertained that the agents of the railways are always glad to insert in their guides descriptions of art industries that flourish in the locality of particular stations. With regard to details and prices of particular wares it is open to the vendors to make these known by means of advertisement in the guides or in the book time-tables.

(*b*) At some stations vendors are already allowed to sell articles of local manufacture and the railways are willing to extend this concession on suitable terms if application be made. The railway companies cannot undertake to sell articles on behalf of manufacturers.

The Hon'ble Mr. PERRAJU PANTULU :—

232 [XXI] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to state when it is likely that the Madras Tenancy Bill will be resumed and laid before the Council for its being considered and passed in due course?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Government are unable to state at present when the Tenancy Bill will again be laid before the Council.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

233 [XXII] *Question.*—(*a*) Are Government aware that the High Court have discontinued, since April 1900, the practice of giving acting promotions to District Munsifs on the occasions of grant of leave to the officers in the higher grades or the establishment of temporary sub-courts?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to address the High Court in view to the giving of such promotions which are allowable under article 155, rule 2, of the Civil Service Regulations?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government have no information on the subject.

(*b*) The Government are not prepared to interfere with the High Court's discretion in this matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. PERRAJU PANTULU :—

234 [XXIII] *Question.*—In regard to the fact, as appearing in chapter II of the Madras Administration Report published during the year 1900–1901, that for the six years, from fasli 1304 to 1309, 36,340,748 demand notices were issued—the number rising from 5,690,788 in fasli 1304 to 6,134,242 in fasli 1309—and 1,869,830 attachment notices were issued—the number rising from 236,151 in fasli 1304 to 406,246 in fasli 1309—will Government be pleased to state why they had to employ such large amount of increasing coercion for the recovery of arrears of land revenue?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—Demand notices are issued whenever a pattadar has failed voluntarily to pay on any of the annual kist dates the instalment of his land revenue due on that date. Pattadars rarely pay until the demand notice is issued, the notice being regarded as a mere bill or statement of account, the issue of which involves no hardship The first process of a coercive nature is the "attachment" which follows on failure to pay according to the "demand notice." The Honourable Member will find the statistics of processes for the recovery of unpaid land revenue fully discussed for the years he refers to in the annual land revenue reports and reviews.

The Hon'ble Mr. PERRAJU PANTULU :—

235 [XXIV] *Question.*—In view of the expression of the Government of India in their recent resolution on land settlement, to the effect that they have further laid down liberal principles for future guidance and will be prepared, where the necessity is established, to make further advance in respect of the progressive and graduated imposition of large enhancements, will Government be pleased to order a modification of land settlement in Malabar so that the increase of assessment mentioned in their answer to the Hon'ble Mr. Ratnasabhapati Pillai's question * at the last meeting, as also similar other enhancements, if any, may not now be given effect to?

* 181 p. 66.

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The settlement orders provide that the enhancements mentioned in the answer referred to shall not be levied at once but by annual increments, the first year's increment being 25 per cent., and that of succeeding years, 12½ per cent. of the old assessment. With regard to Malabar a further modification is under consideration.

The Hon'ble Mr. PERRAJU PANTULU :—

236 [XXV] *Question*.—Are census charges not purely an Imperial expenditure? Will Government be pleased to state why and on what principle the Municipalities were made to bear a proportion of the charges?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. But under section 14 of the Indian Census Act, X of 1900, a part of the census expenses has been charged to municipal funds, on the ground that Municipal Councils cannot properly carry out the statutory duties imposed on them in respect of the registration of births and deaths, and many other details of municipal administration, unless a census is taken from time to time.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

237 [XXVI] *Question*.—(*a*) Are the Government aware that acting promotions to District Munsifs have not been given since April 1900, although the High Court was giving such acting promotions up to March 1900 as per exception in article 155 of the Civil Service Regulations in favour of Madras munsifs?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to call the attention of the High Court to the said article and to give the District Munsifs the acting promotions which the rules allow and which these hard-worked officers fully deserve?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to a similar question * asked by the Hon'ble Mr. Ratnasabhapati Pillai.

* 233 *supra*, p. 83.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

238 [XXVII] *Question*.—(*a*) Are the Government aware that Mysore and Japan have sent some of their best students at Government expense to acquire learning in Europe and America?

(*b*) Considering the immense advantages of such a step, will the Government be pleased to send annually at Government expense some of the best students of the Madras University to Europe and America to receive special training in agricultural, industrial and other technical branches?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The question of technical scholarships is now under the consideration of this Government and the Government of India; and the Government are unable at present to make any statement on the matter.

8. MEETING OF THE 2ND JUNE 1902.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO:—

239 [I] *Question.*—Is it a fact that the Madras Government have recently issued an order that when a native official is appointed to hold a post to which a residence built for Europeans is attached, the Collector and the Superintending Engineer shall decide whether the native officer shall occupy the residence and pay rent therefor?

If true, will the Government be pleased so to modify the order as to do away with the distinction which is thus made between an European and a native officer who is fit to hold the office?

The Hon'ble Colonel Smart:—

Answer.—The Honourable Member's question is answered in the affirmative. The order was passed as much in the interests of native as of European officers, and is in keeping with the rules on this subject to be found in the Government of India Public Works Code. Several complaints had been received from native officers compelled to occupy residences built for Europeans and which were found to be most unsuitable for Hindus. On the other hand, Europeans sometimes objected to occupying houses vacated by natives until a considerable sum had been spent on the buildings, which had been put to uses for which they were not intended. The Government see no necessity for altering the order.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO:—

240 [II] *Question.*—(*a*) Are the Government aware that there is not work enough for two sub-courts in Tinnevelly and that the Tinnevelly people are praying to be relieved of the unnecessary privilege of having two sub-courts?

(*b*) Are the Government further aware that the judicial work in Tellicherry is such that the sub-court is absolutely required there and that the people of Tellicherry not only protested against its removal some years ago but require it now?

If so, will the Government be pleased to grant the prayers of the people and have a sub-court at Tellicherry?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes:—

Answer.—(*a*) In the opinion of the High Court and of Government the amount of judicial work in the Tinnevelly district is at present such that two subordinate judges' courts are required. No representation from the residents of the district asking for the abolition of one of the courts has reached Government.

(*b*) The Government have found upon a careful consideration that a permanent sub-judge's court is not required at Tellicherry. Proposals for the temporary establishment there of a sub-judge's court are now under consideration. No protest was received from the people of Tellicherry when the sub-court was removed from that place.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO:—

241 [III] *Question.*—Have the results of the crop experiments made on lands by the Revenue officers of the presidency in recent years, and the resulting commutation rates, been tabulated, and, if so, will the Government be pleased to lay them on the table?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick:—

Answer.—The crop experiments made and the commutation rates adopted at recent settlements will be found set out in the settlement reports that have been published. Other crop experiments are made by revenue officers, not for settlement purposes but with the object of estimating food

stocks. A quinquennial report on this latter subject is submitted to the statistical bureau of the Government of India. The report last submitted will be found in Board's Proceedings, No. 633, dated 23rd September 1897, a copy of which will be laid on the table.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

242 [IV] *Question.*—Is it true that in filling vacancies in the office of the head writer in Collectors' offices the claims of the officials who receive Rs. 100 or Rs. 120 per mensem but who are out in the interior of the districts are generally overlooked, and preference is given to those who draw less pay but who are employed in the Collector's office at the head-quarters of the district, and this practice works a great hardship to the deserving many whose only fault is that they are not near at hand?

If this is so, will the Government be pleased to issue such orders as may ensure the promotion of officials according to their service and merits?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The Government have no reason to believe that the circumstances are as suggested in the question. The principles that should be followed in making appointments in district offices are enunciated in the Standing Orders of the Board of Revenue (Order No. 128), and as far as the Government are aware these principles are observed. No further instructions are required.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

243 [V] *Question.*—Is it the case that departmental orders issued by the Inspector-General of Police and his subordinates for a stricter working of the provisions under sections 109 and 110 of the Criminal Procedure Code have had the effect of abnormally increasing the number of miscellaneous cases charged by the police under those sections with an incredibly large number of stray and unreliable witnesses to prove them and that the valuable time of the sub-divisional magistrates is thereby wasted in profitless inquiries to the great prejudice of other and more important work?

Will the Government be pleased to collect the statistics on the point and modify the orders in question if, on enquiry, they are found to work any injustice?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Government are aware that the orders referred to by the Honourable Member have resulted in a freer use being made of the security sections of the Criminal Procedure Code. Statistics of such cases are given in the annual police administration reports, but they do not warrant the conclusions drawn by the Honourable Member. The Government see no reason to interfere with the Inspector-General's orders on the subject, which have their entire approval.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

244 [VI] *Question.*—Are the Government aware that during his inspection of Kálahasti sub-jail the Head Assistant Magistrate of North Arcot found a respectable person sixteen times remanded by the Sub-Magistrate on a charge of theft of a blanket worth six rupees, and that in his judgment in calendar case No. 44 of 1902, dated 27th March 1902, the Head Assistant Magistrate has acquitted the accused and held that the Sub-Magistrate and the Police Inspector were willing tools in the hands of the prosecution? If the facts are as stated, will the Government be pleased to take note of the conduct of the above-mentioned public servants and deal with them in such manner as public interests demand?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Government have no official information on the subject, but will call for a report.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

245 [VII] *Question.*—Is it a fact that the Brahmans of Cuddapah who have the right to perform their Sriramanavami worship in their own quarters were first allowed to celebrate it, and then when all preparations had been made for its celebration were prevented by the District Magistrate from celebrating it for fear of the Muhammadans of the place? Will the Government be pleased to take steps to prevent the recurrence of such infringement of private rights?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Government learn that on the 17th April last the District Magistrate of Cuddapah, in consequence of a disturbance which had occurred on the previous day, found it necessary in the interests of the public peace to prohibit the playing of bhajana music during the Muharram. Full discretion as to the measures necessary for the preservation of the peace is vested in the District Magistrate.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

246 [VIII] *Question.*—Has the attention of Government been drawn to the correspondence, which appeared in the *Madras Standard*, dated the 10th May 1902, headed "The Panayavaram breach in the Trichinopoly taluk", stating—(1) that the Public Works Department (probably the District Board) has entered into a contract with the Srírangam Municipality to collect the tolls and keep the road to Kumbakónam in repair; (2) that road does not appear to have been repaired for three years and more; (3) that Panayavaram is on the banks of the Coleroon, and that three years ago there was a breach in the Coleroon bank to an extent of 200 yards; (4) that the breach has been closed for about 100 yards and that the remaining portion has not been closed; (5) that, in consequence, the adjoining rice-fields are immersed in water to the extent of 2,500 acres, that many lands have not been cultivated for three years, and that the revenue officers have declined to remit the tax; and (6) that Mr. S. Venkatesa Aiyangar has wired to His Excellency the Governor praying for redress?

Will Government be pleased to say whether the above statements are true, and whether any and what notice has been taken of the matter?

The Hon'ble Colonel Smart :—

Answer.—(1) & (2) The Government have no information on the subject, but will call for a report from the President of the District Board. (3) & (4). By the heavy floods in the Coleroon about the middle of August 1900 there occurred several breaches in its right bank including the breach at Panayavaram referred to by the Honourable Member. The work of closing the breach was soon commenced, but before it was fully completed the flood of 1901 opened the bank again. Repairs to the damages done by the flood of 1901 are now in progress. As to (5), the Government have no information on the subject. The matter is one for disposal in the ordinary course of business. (6) The telegram sent by Mr. Venkatesa Aiyangar has been referred to the Superintending Engineer, VI Circle, and will be disposed of on receipt of that officer's report.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

247 [IX] *Question.*—Whether, under the rules in force, a failed medical student for the grade of hospital assistant is prohibited from appearing again for the examination, and, if so, will Government be pleased to take steps to revise the rules in view to failed students being enabled to appear again for the examination?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to the rules on the subject given in paragraph 91 at page 35 of the Medical College calendar for 1901–1902. The revision of the rules is a matter which will probably come under consideration in the near future.

The Hon'ble Mr. Ratnasabhapati Pillai :—

* 224 supra, p. 80.

248 [X] *Question.*—With reference to my question No. XIII asked at the * meeting of the Council held on the 8th April 1902, and the reply thereto, will Government be pleased to direct a statement to be laid on the table showing the nationality, place of birth and training, and the engineering examinations passed of those appointed to fill up the vacancies in the post of local fund engineers since the date of their resolution of January 1897 ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—A statement giving the particulars specified will be laid on the table.

The Hon'ble Mr. Ratnasabhapati Pillai :—

249 [XI] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to lay on the table copies of their final orders confirming the five-rupee water-rate in the case of inam and zamin lands in the Gódávari and Kistna deltas ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The Government are not prepared to lay the papers on the table

The Hon'ble Mr. Ratnasabhapati Pillai :—

250 [XII] *Question.*—(*a*) Will Government be pleased to state if they have constituted forest courts in any district to hear appeals against the decisions of the Forest Settlement officers in certain classes of cases ; if not, will Government be pleased to state the reasons for not giving effect to the provisions of the Forest Act in this respect ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the Collector, who is to be one of the three members of a forest court constituted under section 37 of the Forest Act, is authorised by Government to hear such appeals ? Will Government be pleased to consider the advisability of constituting forest courts at an early date ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) Forest courts have not been constituted in any district to hear appeals from the decisions of the Forest Settlement officers. The Act provides for the constitution of such courts in cases where no revenue officer is appointed to hear appeals from decisions on claims to rights of way, water, pasture or to forest produce. Such claims having rarely given rise to difficult questions, the necessity for providing a special tribunal to hear them has not been felt

(*b*) Under section 37 of the Act the Collector may be a member of a forest court, under section 14 of the Act he may be, and usually is, appointed to hear appeals of the kind just mentioned, provided he is an officer of not less than twelve years' standing. The Government are not aware of any reason for constituting forest courts at the present time. The bulk of forest settlement work in this presidency has been accomplished.

The Hon'ble Mr. Ratnasabhapati Pillai :—

251 [XIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is any and what information available regarding the missing S.S. *Camorta*, which was due in Rangoon on the 6th May 1902 ?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to state, as far as it is known, the cause of the loss of the vessel ?

(*c*) What was the number of the crew and the passengers on board the vessel ?

(*d*) If the passengers were emigrant coolies, to what districts do they belong ?

(*e*) Whether any and what measures would be taken, in the case of the loss of the coolies, to afford reliefs to their families ?

The Hon'ble Colonel Smart :—

Answer.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) The S.S. *Camorta* has not been heard of since leaving Cocanada, her last port of call on 30th April. The agents have little doubt she is totally lost. The cause of the loss cannot be stated in the absence of evidence. There were on board as crew 9 Europeans and 80 natives. The vessel left Calingapatam with 619 adults and 72 minors as deck passengers, and one Eurasian boy as second-class passenger. Total 692 passengers.

(*d*) Emigration to Burma from Indian ports is not regulated under the Emigration Act, and consequently no enquiries are made on behalf of Government of passengers for Burma as to their status or occupation or the districts from which they come.

(*e*) In the absence of trustworthy information as to the individual passengers by the *Camorta*, the class to which they belonged and their pecuniary position, the Government can give no answer to this part of the question.

The Hon'ble Mr. Ratnasabhapati Pillai :—

252 [XIV] *Question*.—With reference to the action of Government in the help most generously rendered by them to the ensuing industrial exhibition at Cocanada, will they be pleased to instruct the Collectors to take an active interest in the selection and transmission of exhibits of native manufactures to the exhibition ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The Government have no doubt that Collectors will render such assistance as lies in their power to intending exhibitors.

The Hon'ble Mr. Ratnasabhapati Pillai :—

253 [XV] *Question*.—(*a*) Is it a fact that dacoities have been rife for some time past in the district of Salem, especially in and about the neighbourhood of Kadiampatti (on the Madras Railway), and that a widespread terror prevails in those parts ?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to ascertain and state the number of dacoities and robberies committed in the district since January last, and the number of cases detected and prosecuted to conviction ?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to state what special measures have been adopted to suppress the crime ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) It is a fact that a considerable number of dacoities have occurred in the Salem district of late, but the Government understand that there have been only two dacoities this year in the neighbourhood of Kadiampatti.

(*b*) Nineteen dacoities and fourteen robberies have been reported in the Salem district since the beginning of the year. Of these, four cases of dacoity and three cases of robbery have been referred by the police as false and six cases of dacoity and one case of robbery are under trial.

(*c*) The Inspector-General of Police has personally visited the district and special arrangements have been made by him to hunt down the gang said to be at work. A special police inspector has been appointed, certain transfers of inspectors and station-house officers have been made, and the district police force has been temporarily increased.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

254 [XVI] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that in fasli 1309 a sum of rupees five lakhs eight thousand and odd was collected in excess of the settled demand of the fasli, and that in the Gódávari and Kistna districts such excess collections were the highest? Will Government be pleased to state the circumstances under which these excess collections were made?

(*b*) Is it the case that the adjustment or cash refund of such excess collections leads to peculation on the part of village officials and causes hardship and inconvenience to ryots? Will Government be pleased to take steps to impress on the taluk and village officials the importance of collecting no more than what is due from the ryots?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) The question correctly states the amount of excess collections made in fasli 1309. These overpayments are in general due to causes which arise from the elastic nature of the ryotwari system. While the assessment on the land is fixed for the term of settlement there are a number of charges such as those for irrigation, for second crop and so forth that may or may not accrue in any particular year, and besides the ryot may relinquish portions of his holding, or the assessment may be remitted in whole or in part on account of seasonal failure. It is often impracticable to settle the actual demand for the revenue of the year till the close of the harvest season in March or April. But it is necessary that the payment of the year's dues shall commence in instalments as soon as the ryots are in funds with the proceeds of the early harvests in November and December. These instalments are ordinarily calculated on the basis of the previous year's demand, with the result that in some cases a greater, and in others a less, amount is collected than the demand for the year as ultimately settled. When a revision of assessments is in course of introduction as was the case in Gódávari and Kistna in fasli 1309, the new scale of rates is adopted as the basis of the first instalments, and the variations from the ultimate demand are in consequence somewhat greater than usual.

(*b*) The Government are unable to perceive in what manner the refund in cash or the adjustment in the accounts of such excess collections can lead to peculation on the part of the village officials. In the case of refund, the ryot receives the money back by cashing an order at the taluk treasury; in the case of adjustment, the excess collected is set off against the dues payable in the following year. Instructions have been issued and are well known, and, the Government believe, generally observed, that steps should not be taken to collect amounts that are likely to be ultimately remitted or postponed to the next year. But in dealing with a vast number of revenue payers it is impracticable in all cases to estimate the final demand with absolute correctness. It must be remembered that though the sums collected in excess reach a considerable annual total yet they represent less than one-hundredth part of the total annual land revenue collections.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

255 [XVII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it the case that, when only a portion of a survey number is cultivated, the yield is distributed over the whole area in the survey number to determine the rate of the crop for the whole survey number, and that remission is refused in every case where the rate so determined exceeds one anna?

(*b*) Is it the case that, in calculating the yield of a field in the Gódávari delta for the purpose of granting remissions, ten kunchams of paddy is taken as representing one-sixteenth of an ordinary crop on an acre of wet land?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to ascertain, if it is not a fact, that ten kunchams does not represent one-sixteenth of an ordinary crop in the case of a majority

of soils? If so, will Government be pleased to direct either that the grain valuation assigned to each soil by the settlement be taken as normal yield, or that the present average be raised to twenty kunchams?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The instruction at present in force on the point is materially as stated in clause (*a*) of the question when the claim is for total loss. The Government are not aware that in Gódávari a yield of ten kunchams of paddy has, in practice, been regarded as no crop. In general, remission of assessment may not be granted on a "wet" field unless the crop thereon is totally lost; but to meet the occasional cases where, the crop having withered after sprouting or transplantation, there are to be found a few ears of grain especially in the low-lying parts of a large field, the instruction referred to in the question was framed. It has not, however, been found to work satisfactorily, as, if a one-anna yield may be returned as "no crop", it is impracticable to check two-anna or even four-anna crops being similarly treated. Revised instructions will shortly be issued on this and certain other points connected with the grant of remission of assessment.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

256 [XVIII] *Question*.—Is it a fact that "nirgantis", who are employed to distribute water for irrigation in Gódávari district, are paid out of the "village cess fund"? Do Government consider that their pay is a legitimate charge on the village cess fund? If not, will Government be pleased to direct that the amount already paid to them be credited back to the village cess fund?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The nirgantis in the Gódávari district are employed mainly in the upland tracts of the district. The nirganti is one of the village servants to whom the Madras Village Cess Act IV of 1893 is applicable. The Government consider that their pay is a legitimate charge on the village service fund.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

257, 258 & 259 *Questions*.—**257** [XIX].—Will Government be pleased to place on the table copies of the final report on the introduction of the resettlement rates in the Gódávari and Kistna districts?

258 [XX].—Will the Government be pleased to place on the table a detailed tabular statement showing the financial results of the scheme introduced in connection with the resettlement of the ryotwari lands (1) in the Gódávari delta, (2) in the upland taluqs of Gódávari, and (3) in the portion of the Kistna district brought under settlement as to the increase in assessment (*a*) with a four-rupee water-rate, (*b*) with the five-rupee water-rate introduced in 1895?

259 [XXI].—What is the increase in revenue by reason of the enhancement of water-rate from Rs. 4 to Rs. 5 in the case of inam and zamindari lands in the said deltas of Kistna and Gódávari?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

257, 258, 259 *Answer*.—The final report on the introduction of resettlement into the Gódávari and Kistna districts has not yet been made; the information desired by the Honourable Member is therefore not at present available.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

260. [XXII] *Question*.—Will Government be pleased to place on the table the papers connected with the proposal to transfer the head-quarters of the Gódávari Collectorate from Cocanada to Rajahmundry?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—A copy of Board's Proceedings, No. 240, dated 5th October 1901, will be laid on the table.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

261 [XXIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Are the Government aware that the water-works of Cuddapah have almost completely failed this year, and that there is no pure drinking water available at that place and that this condition recurs in every year of short rainfalls ?

(*b*) Considering the notoriously unhealthy nature of the place and the fact that Bugga water has to some extent reduced malarial fevers and completely stamped out cholera, will the Government be pleased at an early date to adopt or help the municipal corporation to adopt measures to extend and deepen the spring heads of the water-works scheme ?

(*c*) With the same end, will the Government be pleased to direct an investigation to be made to ascertain the feasibility of connecting the Cuddapah water-works with the Peddagadi natural reservoir, which is believed to contain an inexhaustible storage of pure drinking water, and to undertake the project if the results of the investigation are satisfactory ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) Government have no specific information but have no doubt that the Honourable Member's representations are correct.

(*b*) About 2,000 rupees were recently spent over the spring heads, apparently to little purpose. The Honourable Member's attention is drawn to paragraph 6 of the acting Sanitary Commissioner's letter printed in G.O., No. 322 M., dated 13th March last, which seems to show that the best use is not made of the present conditions.

(*c*) Government have no information as to the Peddagadi reservoir, but understand it is seven miles distant from the water-works. The suggestion will be referred for inquiry. No pledge as to monetary assistance can be given at the present time.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

262 [XXIV] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state if any scheme of water-works has been prepared and approved for Vellore town ? Considering the importance and the large population of the town, which is the largest town in the North Arcot district, will the Government be pleased to pass early orders for the construction of water-works for the town ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—A scheme for the water-supply of Vellore from the Palar, estimated to cost Rs. 3,13,000, was prepared in 1891, but it was eventually abandoned as being much beyond the means of the Municipal Council. The Sanitary Engineer is now investigating the possibility of supplying the town from the Virupatchipuram tank, and when a scheme is prepared the question of carrying it out will be considered.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

263 [XXV] *Question.*—Are there any rest-houses or choultries for travellers and visitors at Coonoor and Ootacamund, and, if not, will Government be pleased to move the Municipalities of those places and the District Board of Nilgiris to take joint action in supplying the wants ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—There is a choultry at Ootacamund maintained by the Municipal Council, but none at Coonoor. The Council of the latter Municipality will be asked to consider the advisability of establishing a rest-house or choultry.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

*264 [XXVI] *Question*.—(*a*) Whether His Excellency the Governor in Council has received a memorial, dated April or May current, from 17 ex-hospital assistant students of the Madras Medical college and of the Prince of Wales' Medical school, Tanjore, representing that, in consequence of their failure at the final examination last year to secure the required minimum in two or more subjects and 50 per cent. of the total number of marks, they have been declared ineligible for the examination any further, *even* as private pupils ? * Same as 291 infra, p. 107.

(*b*) Whether the examination for the grade of hospital assistant, unlike the L.M.S., M.B. and C.M. examinations, is purely a *vivâ voce* one, and, if so, why has it been considered necessary to place that examination on a peculiar and special footing ?

(*c*) Whether Government will be pleased to take into consideration the desirability of making the examination for the grade of hospital assistant partly written and partly *vivâ voce* ?

(*d*) Whether, as desired in the proceedings of the Director of Public Instruction No. 6132, dated 26th June 1900, the Principal of the Medical College submitted any proposals to revise the rules on the subject approved in G.O., No. 697, Educational, dated 7th November 1889, in view to enabling failed students to re-appear for the examination after a further course of training for one year in the final year subjects, and, if so, what orders, if any, were passed by Government on such proposals ?

(*e*) Whether two of the Mysore State students, viz., A. Jayasilaraya Pillai and A. Masilamani Mudali, who failed in the hospital assistants' examination of March 1900 in two subjects and also in the total marks, were permitted to attend another year's course, while P. R. Viraswami Nayudu of the Tanjore school, who failed similarly in the examination of March 1901, has been refused permission to attend for a further course of one year ? If so, will Government be pleased to ascertain and state the reasons for such differentiation in the treatment of students from Mysore and the same from Tanjore ?

(*f*) Whether Government will be pleased to afford all possible facilities in the promotion of medical education in the country by taking steps to revise the rules on the subject and placing the examinations for hospital assistants on a footing of equality with other examinations, medical or otherwise ?

(*g*) Whether any and what orders have been passed by Government on the memorial referred to in clause (*a*) of this question ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) & (*g*) The memorial reached Government five days after the receipt of the question, and orders have not yet been passed on it.

(*b*), (*c*), (*d*), (*e*) & (*f*) The Honourable Member is requested to repeat † these questions at a subsequent meeting as there has not been sufficient time to obtain complete information on the points raised. † 291 infra, p. 107.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

265 [XXVII] *Question*.—(*a*) Are the Government aware that the Indian non-official members of the Legislative Council are put to great inconvenience for want of proper accommodation which it is difficult to obtain at Ootacamund ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to provide them with suitable accommodation ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Government will be glad to hear exactly how the inconvenience is caused and to receive suggestions for mitigating it.

9. MEETING OF THE 15TH DECEMBER 1902.

The Hon'ble Mr. PERRAJU PANTULU :—

266 [I] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table copy of the letter from the Government of Madras to the Government of India, dated 18th February 1862, wherein they declared that "There can be no question that one fundamental principle of the ryotwari system is that the Government demand on the land is fixed for ever"?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The letter referred to was published as a parliamentary return in 1863 and is printed in Mr. R. C. Dutt's Book "Open Letter to Lord Curzon". The questions the letter deals with have been fully discussed in a proceedings of the Madras Board of Revenue, which will be found printed in full among the papers published on the Land Revenue Policy of the Indian Government sold in book form by Messrs. Higginbotham & Co. for ten annas. No useful purpose would, therefore, be served by placing a copy of the letter on the table.

The Hon'ble Mr. PERRAJU PANTULU :—

267 [II] *Question.*—(*a*) Is there not a class or *taram* in the settlement scheme known as the permanently-improved land?

(*b*) Does that *taram* imply that the assessment thereon was not liable to enhancement in future revisions; if not, what is the meaning and significance of that *taram*?

(*c*) How much land of that *taram* was there in the ryotwari assessed land in the districts of Kistna and Gódávari according to the previous settlement, and how much was classed under that head in the resettlement?

(*d*) Is that *taram* now existing in the Gódávari district; if not, why is it removed?

(*e*) In what class is the permanently-improved *taram* as per previous settlement put in the resettlement of the Gódávari district, and what are the reasons for so doing?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) In the early settlements there was a class known as *tottakál* or dry land irrigated, assessed at specially high rates and called permanently-improved land.

(*b*) No: the meaning and significance are as explained in the answer to clause (*a*) of the question.

(*c*) (*d*) & (*e*) At the former settlement 7,899 acres were classed as permanently-improved land in Gódávari, and 4,803 acres in Kistna. At the resettlement no land was so classed in either district but all land was assessed at the ordinary wet or dry rates except the *tankas.*

The Hon'ble Mr. PERRAJU PANTULU :—

268 [III] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any crop experiments were made by the Deputy Commissioner, the late Mr. Clerk, in view to the reclassification of the soils (wet and dry) of the upland taluks of the Gódávari district, and, if so, will the Government be pleased to publish the same?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state what percentage of enhancement of assessment will a reclassification of soils of the upland taluks result in, apart from the Deputy Commissioner's "arbitrarily raising the grouping of 145 out of the 264 villages of the upland taluks of the district" referred to in paragraph 58 of the proceedings of the Board of Revenue embodied in G.O., No. 436, Revenue, dated 7th July 1899?

(c) Having regard to the observation of the Board of Revenue in paragraph 48 of the said proceedings that "an all-round enhancement of one-third of the existing rates is as great as can be expediently exacted," and the untiring industry of the upland ryot to obtain the estimated yield and the frequent recurrence of adverse seasons, and having regard to the fact that the reclassification of soils in the delta tracts resulted in an average enhancement of 24 per cent., will the Government be pleased to limit the enhancement to a reasonable percentage not exceeding the 25 per cent. recommended by the Deputy Commissioner, even which is remarked upon by the Board of Revenue in paragraph 47 of the said proceedings as "evidently hampered by the enormous increase to which his proposed regrouping of the villages in many cases leads"?

(d) Have the Government investigated if there be any soils in the upland taluks of the district that deteriorated since the first settlement and required relief from the assessment now resolved upon by the Government to be superadded by an all-round enhancement of one-third of the same; if so, what provision was made as regards them?

(e) In view to assure the public on what defined conditions future revisions of assessment will be based and avoid the uncertainty detrimental to land improvement, will the Government be pleased to state, as regards soils of the upland taluks, on which of the two methods future revisions will be made, viz., the reclassification of soils and the difference of prices, and will the Government be pleased to give the option to the land owners?

(f) Having regard to the proposal of the Board of Revenue in their resolution No. 43, dated 12th March 1896, "that in consideration of past assurances there should be no reclassification of soils in the upland taluks, though such reclassification is otherwise highly desirable" and the reply given by the Government of India to the question put by Rai Bahadur P. Ananda Charlu at the meeting of the Supreme Legislative Council held on 25th February 1897, viz., that "the Secretary of State did not in any way express his disapproval of the previous declarations and pledges on the part of the Madras Government on the subject of land revenue in that presidency, since he did not discuss any such declarations or pledges and that no order was given by the Secretary of State to communicate to the Madras Government the despatch of 18th January 1885," will the Government be pleased to assure the public that future resettlements of ryotwari land of the upland taluks will be made only with reference to prices, so that capital and labour may freely, and without any apprehension whatever, be employed for the permanent improvement of land which is now entirely dependent upon the vagaries of rainfall?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes:—

Answer.—(a) No crop experiments were made as the resettlement took the form of a percentage enhancement.

(b) The upland taluks not having been reclassified, it is not possible to answer this question.

(c) The Government consider that an enhancement of 33 per cent. was moderate in view of the fact that roughly speaking prices had doubled during the settlement period.

(d) No such investigation was made as there was no reclassification of soil.

(e) & (f) The Government must decline to give the assurances asked for.

The Hon'ble Mr. Perraju Pantulu :—

269 [IV] *Question*.—(a) What is the present extent of land in the Kistna district transferred from tank-bed into ryotwari land and pattas issued therefor since the previous settlement?

(b) Is it a fact that any such land is now directed to be assessed as tank-bed with separate dry and wet rates; if so, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons which justified the alteration of the ryotwari tenure in respect of such land without the consent of the ryots?

(*c*) Have the Government realized any and what increase of revenue by the adoption of such course?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government have no statistics on the point.

(*b*) & (*c*) So far as the Government are aware, there has been no alteration in the tenure of patta lands situated in the beds of tanks, nor are there any "separate dry and wet rates" for tank-beds. Existing orders provide that no assignment shall be newly made of tank-bed lands; and that, if the cultivation is objectionable of any such lands that have already been assigned on patta, the lands shall be acquired on payment of compensation. The orders further provide that tank-bed lands held on patta and classed as "wet" shall, at revision of settlement, or, if the holder consent, previously, be classed as "dry" and charged water-rate if and when they are irrigated. The object of this instruction is to declare the ineligibility of such lands for remission of assessment in the event of the submersion, to which the nature of the lands makes them ordinarily subject.

The Hon'ble Mr. Perraju Pantulu :—

270 [V] *Question.*—(*a*) Did the Hon'ble Mr. Garstin (who was in charge of the Madras Proprietary Estates' Village Service Bill) make the following statement published at page 21, *Fort St. George Gazette*, Proceedings of the Legislative Council, dated 5th January 1894?

"Whether the Government will assess them at full assessment or at five-eighths is a matter for their consideration. The Act gives them power under section 17 to enfranchise inams under the rules for the time being in force in respect of the enfranchisement of village service inams in villages not permanently settled or under such rules as the Government may lay down in this behalf. I can only express the hope that the Government will treat the villages in proprietary estates in this matter with all the liberality which the circumstances will admit of, but I cannot possibly pledge them to any specific course of action, because in the course of a few days my official career will terminate."

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to direct the enfranchisement of the inams in permanently-settled estates at the same rate of assessment sanctioned in respect of the village service inams in villages not permanently settled?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The full assessment of the enfranchised service inams will yield nothing like the sum required to pay adequate money salaries to the necessary village servants and the deficiency has to be made good by the proprietor and the tenants under the provisions of sections 19 and 25 of the Act referred to. No good ground appears for favouring the holders of enfranchised inams at the expense of the proprietor and the estate ryots.

The Hon'ble Mr. Perraju Pantulu :—

271 [VI] *Question.*—In view of the fact that Government Orders and Revenue Board's Standing Orders affecting the landed interests of the ryotwari holders and inamdars and their liability to State demands are being passed without giving them an opportunity of representing their views beforehand, will the Government be pleased to direct the publication of such proposed or draft orders in the official Gazettes and lay down a rule to give sufficient time to the people concerned to represent their views before final orders are passed?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—Under present practice the public have generally an opportunity of expressing their views before important orders affecting landed interests are passed. Most enactments affecting such interests provide for the

making of rules after previous publication: and in the case of purely executive orders the district officers are usually consulted, who in turn endeavour to ascertain the views of those interested in the matter under discussion. But the Government are unable to assent to the laying down of a hard-and-fast rule of the nature indicated.

The Hon'ble Mr. PERRAJU PANTULU :—

272 [VII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the Central Provinces Government are publishing monthly a vernacular agricultural gazette for the dissemination of useful agricultural information among the ryots and supplying the same for a small subscription?

(*b*) In view to serve a similar purpose in this presidency, will the Government be pleased to arrange the publication in vernacular of such agricultural gazette for the benefit of the agricultural community?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government have no information on the subject.

(*b*) The village sheet of the District Gazettes in this presidency is intended to contain any information on agricultural subjects likely to be useful to the ryots; and for many years information of this character has been so published. The Government have more than once drawn the attention of the Board of Revenue and the District officers to this means of disseminating agricultural news and encouraged its being more extensively used for the purpose.

The Hon'ble Mr. PERRAJU PANTULU :—

273 [VIII] *Question.*—(*a*) What is the value of enamelled ironware imported into Madras from Austria and Germany during the last three years?

(*b*) Having regard to the increasing demand for such articles of domestic use, will the Government be pleased to introduce the industry in Madras and open an institution to teach people here in the manufacture of such articles?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The information desired is not available. Imports of enamelled ironware have heretofore been included under "Hardware, other sorts", but since October last under instructions from the Director-General of Statistics, they are being separately registered. The figures for the last two months are—

	RS.
Value of imports from Austria	12,548
Do. from Germany	5,215

(*b*) The question of introducing the manufacture of enamelled ironware into Madras will be considered, when the views of the Government of India on the proposals of the Industrial Schools Committee are received. The Government are not prepared at present to take any steps in the matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. PERRAJU PANTULU :—

274 [IX] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that in English factories a mechanical contrivance has recently been introduced and is now being used for the production of laced and embroidered cloths of the kind manufactured in Salem, and that if these factory-made cloths are introduced into the Indian markets it would seriously affect the living of so many as 50,000 weavers of Salem and other places?

(*b*) If there is no definite information on the subject, will the Government be pleased to enquire into the matter and take steps to open a school in Salem for teaching the weavers so that they may avail themselves of the machine aid as in English factories?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Government are aware that a loom has been patented of the nature referred to and there are probably many such patents. The information that Government have on the subject raises no apprehension that Salem manufactures will suffer in competition with the English products. There is therefore no reason for opening a school of the nature suggested in Salem.

The Hon'ble Mr. PERRAJU PANTULU :—

275 [X] *Question*.—(*a*) Having regard to the enormity of the disaster to the railway train at Mangapatnam, will the Government be pleased to appoint a committee of official and non-official gentlemen so that a searching enquiry may be made into the cause of and responsibility for the same and precautionary measures suggested to prevent recurrence in future of similar disasters as far as possible?

(*b*) In view to allay public anxiety owing to conflicting reports and varying expressions of opinion, will the Government be pleased to publish a full report of the disaster?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to furnish information as to—

(1) When the bridge at Mangapatnam was last inspected and reported upon and what was the report?

(2) Whether there were bridge-watchers at the time of the disaster, and if dispensed with when and why?

(3) Whether after the disaster passengers including people anxious to enquire after their relations were not allowed for some time to proceed in the train to Mangapatnam, and if so why?

(4) How many persons were in the ill-fated train at the time of the disaster and what was the number of the dead?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) A full enquiry has been made by the persons appointed by law to make such enquiry and the Government do not consider that any good purpose would be served by the appointment of a special committee to make another enquiry.

(*b*) The report on the disaster has been published.

(*c*) (1) The last regular annual inspection of the bridge was made on the 11th May 1902. No report was made as there was nothing calling for report.

(2) There were no bridge-watchers at the time of the disaster. Bridge-watchers are never employed on bridges of this kind.

(3) It is not true that after the disaster persons anxious to enquire after their relatives were not allowed for some time to proceed to Mangapatnam. Immediately after arrival at Mangapatnam the Traffic Manager wired to the stationmaster, Cuddapah, that any relations or friends were to be allowed to go on by the special train which was bringing the Government inspector of railways. The staff are positive that no one applied except the reporter of the *Madras Mail*. Some relatives were carried from Madras in the second break-down special. A searching enquiry has been made and not a single substantiated case has been brought to light.

(4) The number of persons in the wrecked train was 156. The number of bodies recovered is seventy-one. Besides these there are eight who have not been accounted for in any way and who are believed to have perished.

The Hon'ble Mr. PERRAJU PANTULU :—

276 [XI] *Question*.—(*a*) Is it a fact that in the year 1900-1901 the number of primary schools in the presidency fell from 20,075 to 19,483 and their strength from 598,704 to 583,197?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state what this is due to, and what steps, if any, will be taken with a view to the extension of primary education in the presidency ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The question, as asked, contains inaccuracies of statement. The fall was in primary schools intended for boys and under public management.

(*b*) The Honourable Member is referred to the answer* given to clause (*a*) of question VII at the meeting of the Council held on the 17th February 1902. For the extension of primary education the Government propose to establish a considerable number of model primary schools and, if possible, to pay grants in full to schools aided from Provincial and Local funds. * 186 *supra*, p. 68.

The Hon'ble Mr. Perraju Pantulu :—

277 [XII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that there are veterinary dispensaries in most other provinces in India where 52,846 cattle were reported to have been treated during the year 1900-1901 ?

(*b*) Are there any, if so, how many, such dispensaries in this presidency ?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to take steps to provide a sufficient number of dispensaries for similar treatment in this presidency ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) Yes, these figures appear in a resolution of the Government of India, dated 16th November 1901, which was published in the *Gazette of India*.

(*b*) A veterinary hospital is attached to the Agricultural college, Saidapet, and a veterinary dispensary has recently been established at Trichinopoly by the Trichinopoly District Board.

(*c*) The question as to how funds could be provided for such dispensaries has been long under discussion. Two years ago the Government decided to establish, as an experimental measure, a limited number of veterinary dispensaries, not exceeding six, at selected centres. The great difficulty experienced in obtaining qualified veterinary assistants for the charge of these institutions has however hitherto prevented the proposals being carried out. The subject is receiving the attention of the Board of Revenue and the Superintendent of the Civil Veterinary department.

The Hon'ble Mr. Perraju Pantulu :—

278 [XIII] *Question.*—In view of the fact, as stated in appendix I to the report of Veterinary-Major W. D. Gunn on the cattle mortality in this presidency during the quarter ending 31st March 1902 embodied in G.O., No. 591, Revenue, dated 10th July 1902, that the number of deaths from diseases among cattle in the Gódávari district was the largest in the presidency, viz., 2,576, and in view of the serious evil resulting in the decrease of the cattle wealth of the districts as shown in the public statistics which I quote †, will the Government be now pleased to call for a report as to the existence, sufficiency and sanitary condition of the cattle-stands in the deltaic villages of the district and see them suitably provided for in this respect ?

† Year.	Cattle including bulls, bullocks, bull and cow buffaloes.
1895–96	599,041
1896–97	580,314
1897–98	577,774
1898–99	577,774
1899-1900	564,355

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The census of cattle is not taken with the same accuracy as the census of human beings. Of necessity the village officers must largely rely on the information given by the ryots, and for many reasons the ryots are prone to understate the true figures, or to give guesses at

random. The statistics are thus extremely untrustworthy. It is highly improbable that there has been a real decrease in the number of cattle in the Gódávari delta. It is however the fact that for the quarter ending 31st March 1902 the number of deaths of cattle from disease, as reported, was highest in the Gódávari district. But the Government do not consider that any useful purpose would be served by calling for reports on the matter referred to by the Honourable Member. The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to question No. XVIII * put by him at the meeting of this Council on the 8th April last, which answer is fully applicable to the question under reply.

* 229 *supra*, p. 82.

The Hon'ble Mr. PERRAJU PANTULU :—

279 [XIV] *Question.*—Is it a fact that Bengal and Bombay are provided with veterinary colleges sending up students for the final examination, as also Lahore and Rajputana with veterinary schools?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—It is so as regards Bengal, Bombay and Lahore; as to Rajputana the Government have no information.

The Hon'ble Mr. PERRAJU PANTULU :—

280 [XV] *Question.*—Having regard to the decrease in the cattle wealth of this presidency as shown in the public statistics which I quote,† will the Government be pleased to make in the next budget adequate provision for the imparting of veterinary instruction in this presidency for the benefit of its agricultural community?

†

Year.	Bulls and bullocks.	Cows.	Bull-buffaloes.	Cow-buffaloes.
1895-96 ..	4,502,951	3,979,771	862,477	1,590,645
1896-97 ..	4,404,070	3,840,183	850,928	1,558,895
1897-98 ..	4,431,121	3,835,398	851,608	1,546,085
1898-99 ..	4,431,121	3,835,398	851,608	1,546,085
1899-1900 ..	4,411,350	3,853,408	846,679	1,560,104

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

‡ 278 *supra*, p. 99.

Answer.—As explained in the answer to question XIII ‡ the figures from which the Honourable Member seeks to deduce the inference that there has been a diminution in the livestock of this presidency cannot be safely relied on. If the decrease is real it is amply accounted for by a succession of bad seasons for which no veterinary instruction can afford a remedy. There can be no doubt however that the cattle mortality from disease all over the presidency is considerable. In 1881 a veterinary department was organized to combat cattle disease and to afford the ryots veterinary instruction. The difficulties encountered and the small results achieved and the causes of failure are largely attributable to the attitude of the ryots who generally not only exhibited no desire to co-operate in adopting veterinary treatment, but offered passive or active obstruction to the efforts made to assist them. For some years consequently the local veterinary department has not attempted to do more than to collect information and statistics about cattle disease and to regulate the arrangements at cattle fairs. Recently however, as the Honourable Member has been informed in answer to question XII §, it has been decided by the Government to make further attempts to popularize veterinary remedies and establish veterinary dispensaries: experiments with fair success have been carried out in prophylactic inoculation against rinderpest and anthrax; and a scheme is under preparation for opening veterinary classes for the training of the agency required for the charge of the dispensaries and for the more extensive employment of methods of inoculation. Such sums as may be required will be provided as soon as it is found practicable to frame and sanction definite proposals. For veterinary dispensaries a sum of Rs. 5,000 has been provided in the budget for the next year.

§ 277 *supra*, p. 99.

The Hon'ble Mr. PERRAJU PANTULU :—

281 [XVI] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that in fasli 1310 (1900–1901) the net increase in the extent of land sold for arrears of Government revenue and bought in by the Government amounted to 3,134 acres in Kistna, 1,224 acres in Anantapur, 752 acres in Madura, 710 acres in Cuddapah, 510 acres in North Arcot, and 683 acres in South Arcot?

(*b*) Having regard to the proposal of the Collector of North Arcot concurred in by the Board of Revenue in their resolution, No. 30, dated 28th February 1902, embodied in G.O., No. 485, Revenue, dated 3rd June 1902, to scrutinize the list of bought-in lands with the view to their restoration to their former owners in deserving cases, will the Government be pleased to instruct the Collectors of the aforesaid districts to do so as soon as possible and restore such land to the former owners?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) Yes: the figures are correctly quoted from the last land revenue settlement report which was reviewed and published by the Government.

(*b*) The Government cannot approve the suggestion that, as a general rule, land which has been sold for arrears of revenue and bought in for want of bidders should be restored to the person through whose default the land was brought to sale. Such a concession can only be made in very exceptional seasons and circumstances.

The Hon'ble Mr. PERRAJU PANTULU :—

282 [XVII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state, out of the 900,000 acres lying waste and assessed at an average of 3 annas per acre in Anantapur in the resettlement, how much land has since been occupied and, if a fairly good portion of the same be not occupied, will the Government be pleased to state why it was so?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—In the Anantapur district the assessed ryotwari area was found at the last settlement to be 2,040,100 acres, of which the unoccupied area assessed as cultivable waste was 812,317 acres. Of this extent 801,264 acres were classed as "dry" with an average assessment per acre of As. 3-2 and the remainder as "wet". The settlement was completed in 1897–98; in this and the subsequent years the average area taken up on darkhast annually has been about 35,000 acres, but owing to unfavourable seasons the average area annually relinquished has been larger. The Government consider that the chief reason why a greater portion of the waste is not permanently occupied and cultivated is that the soil is rocky and rendered sterile by frequent and severe droughts.

The Hon'ble Mr. PERRAJU PANTULU :—

283 [XVIII] *Question.*—(*a*) With reference to the settlement report of South Canara recently laid at the disposal of the Press, will the Government be pleased to state what reasons induced them to abstain from resettling the district since the "Dhoro" settlement of 1819, if that settlement was understood to be liable to revision?

(*b*) When the Government ordered the resettlement of the district, were they aware of the following passages of Lord William Bentinck's Minute, dated 25th November 1806:—

"When the circumstances were made known to me, I was astonished at the close resemblance between the actual state of property in Canara and the proposed permanency of the ryotwari settlement. Among other peculiarities, the greater part of the estates though fully assessed pay less than ten pagodas per annum to the Circar. I shall not enter into further details; I shall only state my satisfaction in

finding theory reduced to practice, and speculation proved by the test of the most successful experiments. To what circumstances Canara owes the preservation of its original tenures handed down through many ages, I cannot at present say; but that they still exist is certain ?"

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state the reasons which justified their procedure of resettling the "wargs" or landed estates of South Canara and making them liable to periodical revisions ?

(d) Was there any declaration published at the settlement of South Canara of 1819 as to the period during which it would be in force, and as to its liability to revision thereafter; if so, when and where was it published ?

(e) With respect to the 14,643 acres of land as to which the present assessment is either in excess of, or equal to, the mulgeni rent, is it a fact that the present assessment leads to the destruction of the property of wargdars inasmuch as they can have no tangible gain by the payment of such assessment and are yet liable to the mulgenigars for any payment they may make to avoid the sale of the holding ?

(f) Will the Government be pleased to direct revision of assessment, if one must be made, on the basis of the rental the wargdars are in receipt of ?

(g) Having regard to the fact that the survey and the classification of the soils of South Canara have been attended with exceptional difficulty and that owing to the peculiar nature of the district, broken and precipitous with numerous terraced hill-sides and narrow-winding valleys as stated in paragraph 2 of G.O., No. 757, Revenue, dated 25th August 1902, enormous and unceasing industry is requisite to obtain adequate yield from land, will the Government be pleased to declare the finality of the present classification ?

(h) With reference to the observation of the Government in the said Government Order that "the Commissioner contemplates a considerable reduction of the assessment on the hearing of the appeals as it is believed that in parts the classification of inferior land in some parts and especially in Kasaragod taluk has been unduly high", will the Government be pleased to direct the settlement officer concerned to reduce all such assessment irrespective of appeals, if any, made in that respect and levy only the reduced rates of assessment ?

(i) With reference to the soils classified in South Canara, will the Government be pleased to state the means employed to differentiate the yield due to the natural productivity of soil from that due to the ryots' industry and improvement?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(a) The system of survey and settlement now being applied to South Canara district was first formulated in 1855. The districts of the presidency were surveyed and settled successively, the two West Coast districts being left to the last. The physical characteristics of these districts and the nature of their land tenures gave rise to many difficult problems in the construction of a scheme of settlement and explain why these districts were not taken up earlier in the settlement programme.

(b) Yes.

(c) South Canara is now for the first time being settled on the methods of revenue assessment adopted in this presidency. The reasons for the various processes followed are explained in the settlement report, which has been published.

(d) The Government are not aware that any such declaration was published.

(e) & (f) The permanent alienation by a wargdar of his interest in the land in return for a fixed rent is no reason why the State should restrict its claim for land revenue to a share of the fixed rent.

(g) The Government cannot undertake to bind their successors in the manner suggested.

(h) The Government do not consider that any such general instruction is required.

(*i*) Such differentiation is not made nor is it practicable. The industry and improvements of the ryots are taken into consideration in fixing the rates of assessment.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

284 [XIX] *Question.*—(*a*) In regard to the Mangapatnam railway disaster of the 12th September last, will the Government be pleased to state whether the committee of enquiry who enquired into the accident were nominated by them or by the railway company?

(*b*) Whether at the enquiry by the committee, which consisted of the Railway Chief Engineer, the Traffic Manager, and the Locomotive Superintendent, the District Magistrate and the Government Inspector were present merely to watch the proceedings or as members of the committee?

(*c*) Have the District Magistrate and the Government Inspector taken part in the report of the committee, and signed the same?

(*d*) Whether, in view of the demand made by the public in the press from the date of the disaster for an enquiry by an independent committee, the Government will be pleased to take into consideration the desirability of appointing a mixed commission of Government officials and non-officials for making an investigation?

(*e*) Whether the Government will be pleased to consider the desirability of appointing as president of such a commission one of the Judges of the High Court?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The rules for investigation of a railway accident as required under the Railway Act are specified in Government of India Circular No. III Railway, dated 14th February 1902. The enquiry at Mangapatnam was made by the following three authorities acting independently :—

(i) A "committee of joint enquiry" nominated by the Agent of the Railway.

(ii) The Government Inspector of Railways.

(iii) The District Magistrate.

(*b*) As indicated in the reply to clause (*a*), the Government Inspector and the District Magistrate are not members of the "committee of joint enquiry" nominated by the Agent, nor are they present merely to watch the proceedings. They take such part in the enquiry as may seem to them to be necessary.

(*c*) The District Magistrate and the Government Inspector do not sign the report of the "committee of joint enquiry" nominated by the Agent. They make and sign their own reports.

(*d*) The matter having been fully enquired into by the persons appointed by law to make the enquiry, the Government will not take into consideration the desirability of appointing any other persons to make an investigation.

(*e*) As no such commission will be appointed, it is not necessary to consider the question of appointing a president.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

285 [XX] *Question.*—(*a*) With reference to the annual examination by the Railway District Engineer of the Mangapatnam bridge on the 11th May 1902, will the Government be pleased to state what report was made by the Engineer as to the soundness or otherwise of the structure?

(*b*) Was the District Engineer who made the examination called as a witness before the committee of enquiry, and, if not, why was he not called?

(*c*) With reference to the fact that the special night watchmen were dispensed with from the 31st August 1902 (twelve days before the disaster), have the Government ascertained as to why this step was taken at a time when it was most needed?

(*d*) Are not the months of August, September and October the season of heavy rains in Cuddapah known as the tank-filling season?

(*e*) Is it a fact that the gang maistry and his men showed the white light (safe signal) at about 205/10 mile on the night of the accident in question to No. 32 train which was the last to cross the fated bridge, and is it a fact that the driver and the guard of this train deny having seen the white light?

(*f*) Was any explanation forthcoming at the enquiry for this serious contradiction of statements, and, if so, which of the statements was found by the committee to be the true one?

(*g*) Whether, upon a consideration of all the circumstances and the discrepancies in the evidence of the gang maistry and his coolies in regard to their patrolling on the night in question referred to by Captain Hearne, the Government are not in a position to state that, if the special night watchmen had been kept on, this disaster would have been averted?

(*h*) Were the witnesses examined before the railway committee of enquiry exclusively railway servants who were on duty on the night of the accident?

(*i*) Was the evidence of the head clerk of the Traffic Manager's office of the Madras Railway and the chief guard of the train who happened to travel by the train in question as passengers taken by the committee?

(*j*) Were no other passengers who travelled in the said train and other outsiders examined by the committee, and, if not, what was the reason for the omission?

(*k*) Are there any definite rules in force in the Madras Railway to regulate the system of patrol by the gang maistry and by his men on rainy nights whether there are sepecial night watchmen or not?

(*l*) With reference to the observations of the Government Inspector that "it was an error of judgment on the part of the Tulukanam maistry to have kept the men together, so that all were cut off, and the patrolling rules might be modified by the addition of a warning against this practice when the gang turns out," that "one man should remain in each mile and patrol backwards and forwards meeting the next man at each end of the beat" and that "in this case a man patrolling from 204/8 mile to 205/8 might have averted the disaster," will the Government be pleased to ascertain and state who is responsible for the want of any system in the patrol indicated in the above quotations?

(*m*) What was the rate of speed at which the train in question was running when it was precipitated into the gap of the Mangapatnam wrecked bridge?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes:—

Answer.—(*a*) No report was made by the Railway District Engineer on the condition of the bridge, as there was no necessity to do so.

(*b*) The District Engineer who made the examination was called as a witness. He appears as witness No. 10 in the report.

(*c*) The general rules under which night watchmen were dispensed with after certain dates, differing in different districts, were framed in 1880 as the result of experience gained up to that date and have been modified from time to time since. The experience obtained at the time of framing the rules appeared to show that the 31st August was a suitable date for discontinuing the special watchmen in that district.

(*d*) If the tanks are filled in Cuddapah, it is generally in the months of August, September and October.

(*e*) The maistry and his two men state in their evidence that they showed a white light to No. 32 train. The driver and guard of that train both state that they did not see the light.

(*f*) As indicated in the report, the statements of the driver and guard do not contradict those of the gangmen. They merely fail to confirm them. The committee consider the statements of the gangmen with regard to this matter to be probably correct but not positively confirmed.

(*g*) The Government are not in a position to state that if the special watchmen had been kept on the disaster would have been averted. The Senior Government Inspector is of a directly contrary opinion as indicated in paragraph 6 of his remarks.

(*h*) The witnesses examined were not exclusively railway servants who were on duty on the night of the accident. The names and designations of the witnesses are given in the report.

(*i*) The evidence of the head clerk of the Traffic Manager's office was taken. The second part of the question is not clear. The evidence of the chief guard, Johnstone, of the wrecked train was taken. The list of persons who escaped shows that a guard of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway travelled as a passenger and his evidence was not taken.

(*j*) The evidence of several passengers was taken and also that of other persons who were not passengers. The names and designations of the witnesses are given in the report.

(*k*) The rule is that whenever heavy storms occur the gang maistries and men are expected to patrol and the permanent-way inspector to be out.

(*l*) The absence of the system indicated by the Government Inspector as, in his opinion, desirable is due to the fact that since the introduction of railways into India circumstances exactly similar to those at Mangapatnam have not occurred so that nothing has previously shown such a system to be desirable.

(*m*) The exact speed of the train can only be a matter of conjecture. Its time-table speed is about 35 miles an hour and, as it was running punctually, it is probable that it was travelling at this rate.

The Hon'ble Mr. Ratnasabhapati Pillai :—

286 [XXI] *Question.*—(*a*) With reference to the observations * of the Government Inspector, Captain Hearne, in paragraph 5 of his report, regarding the structure of the Mangapatnam bridge, will the Government be pleased to state why no attention was paid to the foundations of the pier at the subsequent annual or periodical examinations by the railway staff and the same taken down to harder soil?

(*b*) Has it not been found possible to fix the responsibility for the above omission?

* "After the Cheyar disaster in 1870 a commission of experts was appointed by Government to examine and report upon all bridges of the north-west line, with a view to set at rest doubts which had arisen as to the stability of the bridges. They duly examined this bridge at mile 205/7 and reported on the 1st March 1871 in the terms stated in the proceedings of the committee under the head 'Description of locality.' It will be observed that they did not examine the foundations of the pier which has been washed away and were apparently satisfied that the *Mooranboo* on which pier No. 1 is founded extended across the stream at the same depth. They recommended that four bridges (but not this one) should be floored, and evidently considered it perfectly safe. The upper works of the bridge appear to have been regularly inspected, and though in the light of after events one may say that the foundations ought to have been taken down to harder soil or that the bridge ought to have been floored, it is impossible to say that there is any blame attaching to the present railway administration on this account."

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) No attention was paid to the foundations of the pier at subsequent annual or periodical inspections because they were examined and found to be satisfactory by the committee of 1871. This has been confirmed by an examination made at the end of October, after the water had subsided, which shows that the pier failed by being overturned and that its foundations were not under-scoured. This matter is described in the remarks of the Senior Government Inspector, paragraph 3.

(*b*) There has been no omission that requires the fixing of responsibility.

The Hon'ble Mr. Ratnasabhapati Pillai :—

287 [XXII] *Question.*—Pending the consideration of the question of improving the system of bridge-watching and line-patrolling, will the Government be pleased to issue orders for immediate arrangements being made on all railways under their control in the presidency—

(*a*) for posting permanent watchmen at all bridges throughout the year.

(*b*) for patrolling the line during nights throughout the season rains.

(*c*) for providing the engines with powerful head-lights which will enable the drivers to look ahead a considerable distance, and

(*d*) for slowing down when driving over bridges?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) No.

(*b*) Rules are already in operation for patrolling during the rainy season.

(*c*) The question of more powerful head-lights is one that is under the consideration of the Railway Department.

(*d*) No. The Government will not issue such orders.

The Hon'ble Mr. Ratnasabhapati Pillai :—

288 [XXIII] *Question.*—(*a*) What are the regulations in force on the Madras Railway, the South Indian Railway, and other railways in the presidency in the matter of the rate of speed to be observed by drivers when driving over bridges, and whether a reduced rate of speed is adopted when driving over bridges?

(*b*) What is the existing system of bridge-watching and line-patrolling on the South Indian Railway?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) There are no general regulations in force in the matter of the speed to be observed by drivers when driving over bridges. A reduced speed is not adopted. Special rules are made to meet special cases, such as when a bridge is under repair.

(*b*) There is no special system of bridge-watching on the South Indian Railway. The rules for line-patrolling on the South Indian Railway are practically the same as on the Madras Railway and are set forth in rule 144 of the "Working Instructions".

The Hon'ble Mr. Ratnasabhapati Pillai :—

289 [XXIV] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the rapidly declining condition of the tanning industry in the Presidency of Madras which was once in a very flourishing condition?

(*b*) Was the number of tanneries in the presidency till recently upwards of 300, whereas the present number is only 100?

(*c*) Whether the existing tanneries are not in a struggling condition?

(*d*) Whether it is a fact that the United States of America are levying an import duty at rates ranging from 12 to 20 per cent. on all tanned skins, while admitting raw skins free of duty?

(*e*) Is it a fact that the exports of raw untanned skins during the past five years have risen in value from Rs. 4,49,42,970 to Rs. 5,57,66,378, while the exports of tanned skins fell in value from Rs. 4,49,41,853 in 1900–1901 to Rs. 2,26,40,461?

(*f*) Whether in the United States a new tanning process called "Chrome" has been introduced, and whether the Government will cause enquiries to be made in view to the new method being introduced in this presidency?

(*g*) Whether the Government will be pleased to take such other steps as may be called for to revive the tanning industry in Madras?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government are aware that there has been a decline in the tanning industry in this presidency.

(*b*) The statistical returns of large industries supply the following figures :—

Year.	Number of tanneries working.
1898	122
1899	134
1900	172
1901	15

(*c*) & (*d*) The Government have no information on these points.

(*e*) The figures quoted are substantially the same as those given on pages 49 and 53 of Vol. I of the annual statement of trade and navigation for the year ending the 31st March 1902 published by the Government of India.

(*f*) & (*g*) The Government believe that some new tanning process is now used in America, but have no detailed information and are now inquiring into the subject.

The Hon'ble Mr. Ratnasabhapati Pillai :—

290 [XXV] *Question.*—(*a*) With reference to the dismissal of the station-house officer Krishnaswami of Milavaram (Kistna) by the acting Superintendent of Police on 4th December 1900, will the Government be pleased to ascertain and state if an enquiry in accordance with Police order No. 345 sanctioned by them had been made before the dismissal was ordered ?

(*b*) If the rules prescribed have not been observed, will the Government be pleased to direct that an enquiry be held on the charges against the station-house officer in accordance with the Police order quoted above?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is requested to repeat * the question at the next meeting of the Council. * 309 *infra*, p. 114.

The Hon'ble Mr. Ratnasabhapati Pillai :—

† **291** [XXVI] *Question.*—(*a*) Whether His Excellency the Governor in Council has received a memorial dated April or May current from seventeen ex-hospital assistant students of the Madras Medical college and of the Prince of Wales' Medical school, Tanjore, representing that, in consequence of their failure at the final examination last year to secure the required minimum in two or more subjects and 50 per cent. of the total number of marks, they have been declared ineligible for the examination any further even as private pupils ? † Same as 264 *supra*, p. 98.

(*b*) Whether the examination for the grade of hospital assistant, unlike the L.M.S., M.B. & C.M. examinations, is purely a vivâ voce one, and if so, why has it been considered necessary to place that examination on a peculiar and special footing ?

(*c*) Whether the Government will be pleased to take into consideration the desirability of making the examination for the grade of hospital assistant partly written and partly vivâ voce ?

(*d*) Whether, as desired in the proceedings of the Director of Public Instruction, No. 6132, dated 26th June 1900, the Principal of the Medical college submitted any proposals to revise the rules on the subject approved in G.O., No. 697, Educational, dated 7th November 1889, in view to enabling failed students to reappear for the examination after a further course of training for one year in the final year subjects, and if so, what orders, if any, were passed by the Government on such proposals ?

(*e*) Whether two of the Mysore State students, viz., A. Jayasilaraya Pillai and A. Masilamani Mudali, who failed in the hospital assistants' examination of March 1900, in two subjects and also in the total marks, were permitted to attend another year's course, while P. R. Veeraswami Nayudu, of the Tanjore school, who failed similarly in the examination of March 1901, has been refused permission to attend for a further course of one year? If so, will the Government be pleased to ascertain and state the reasons for such differentiation in the treatment of students from Mysore and the same from Tanjore?

(*f*) Whether the Government will be pleased to afford all possible facilities in the promotion of medical education in the country by taking steps to revise the rules on the subject and placing the examinations for hospital assistants on a footing of equality with other examinations, medical or otherwise?

(*g*) Whether any and what orders have been passed by the Government on the memorial referred to in clause (*a*) of this question?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to question No. XXVI * at the meeting of the Council held on the 2nd June 1902.

* 264 *supra*, p. 93.

(*b*) & (*c*) The examination has always been conducted vivâ voce and is a sufficiently accurate test of the amount of knowledge which a member of the hospital assistant class should possess. The Government see no necessity for any change in this respect.

(*d*), (*e*) & (*f*) The rules sanctioned in G.O., No. 697, Educational, dated 7th November 1889, allow the council of the Medical college sufficient discretion to deal with the case of pupils who fail at the final examination, on the merits of each case. The Governor in Council purposes to modify the rules so as to prohibit expressly the readmission to a further examination of pupils who fail in two or more subjects and who do not obtain 50 per cent. of the total number of marks. The Government have no present intention of making any further alteration.

(*g*) A copy of G.O., No. 843, Educational, dated 16th October 1902, will be laid on the table.

The Hon'ble Mr. Srinivasa Rao :—

292 [XXVII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state why a member of the Provincial Civil Service was not appointed in the place of Mr. Manavadan Raja, District and Sessions Judge, North Arcot, on leave?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—When Mr. Manavadan Raja went on leave four judgeships were held by Statutory and Provincial Service officers. The appointment of Mr. Cotton was made to avoid transfers and in the general interests of the public service.

The Hon'ble Mr. Srinivasa Rao :—

293 [XXVIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the time granted by the special settlement officer in South Canara to object to the issue of rough pattas by him is only ten days?

(*b*) The district being surveyed and settled for the first time and the land tenure of South Canara being somewhat complicated, will the Government be pleased to direct that a longer time for objections to the issue of rough pattas be given by the settlement officer?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) Under paragraph 24 of the settlement notification, ten days is the minimum period of notice given to the pattadars of each village as to the time and place where objections will be received. A similar period has been prescribed at all recent settlements and has been generally found adequate. The settlement officer has discretion to extend the time on good cause shown. In fixing dates for receiving objections, the settlement officer will have regard to the time required to furnish, on application, copies of extracts from the land registers and field maps showing the numbers entered in the rough pattas, or of extracts of any other document which the settlement officer is satisfied is *bonâ fide* required to enable the pattadar to identify the fields and understand the entries in his rough patta. Every pattadar who uses due diligence in applying for any copies he requires will thus have ample time to satisfy himself as to the correctness of his rough patta and to bring errors to notice.

(*b*) As at present advised the Government see no sufficient reason to comply with this request.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

294 [XXIX] *Question*.—(*a*) Is it the fact that there are no irrigation reservoirs or channels maintained by the Government in the district of South Canara?

(*b*) If so, what are the irrigation reservoirs or channels and what is the annual cost to the Government of maintaining them?

(*c*) Are the improvements in cultivation in South Canara solely due to the industry of the people and to great outlay of money by them?

(*d*) If they are, are not such improvements entitled to exemption from fresh taxation.

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) & (*b*) The answer to clause (*a*) is in the affirmative.

(*c*) & (*d*) The Government do not understand what the Honourable Member means by "improvements in cultivation".

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

295 [XXX] *Question*.—(*a*) Is it a fact that a person convicted twice for criminal breach of trust and sentenced to rigorous imprisonment twice in 1898 is a teacher of the second form in the Arcot Mission college at Vellore and has been drawing grants from the Municipality of Vellore whose Chairman is the manager of the college?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to point out that the entertainment of such a teacher in a recognised college is against rules and discipline and ought not to have been made by the manager of the institution?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Government have not received any report on the matter which the Director of Public Instruction is competent to deal with on his own responsibility.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

296 [XXXI] *Question*.—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) What, respectively, were the debts due by the estates of Karvetnagar and Kálahasti, when the Court of Wards assumed management of them?

(*b*) Whether any, and if so, what portion of them have been liquidated until now?

(c) Whether the liquidation, if any, was from the income of the estate?

(d) Whether any, and if so, what steps have been taken by the Court of Wards for the early liquidation of the debts that still remain unpaid?

(e) What the cost of the establishment in the two estates was before the Court of Wards assumed charge of them and what it has been since?

(f) Also whether it is true that claims made to the Collector by menial servants for arrears of pay and by suppliers of the necessary articles of life for moneys due to them were finally disallowed by the Collector on the ground of limitation, while such claims were within time when they were first made?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to the annual reports on the administration of the estates under the Court of Wards, which reports contain all the information that can be published on the subject of the Honourable Member's questions. The report for the year 1901–1902 will be issued in about three months' time.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

297 [XXXII] *Question.*—Is it a fact that the police of Sholavandan station in the district of Madura charged nine Pallas of Mannadimangalam village in Madura taluk with the murder of a schoolmaster, that one of the Pallas was forced to make a confessional statement, that flesh and bones were produced by the police as belonging to the body of the deceased, and that while the preliminary enquiry was going on before the committing magistrate the schoolmaster alleged to have been murdered appeared before the magistrate from Negapatam and saved the Pallas?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Government have no information with regard to the case, but will call for a report.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

298 [XXXIII] *Question.*—(a) Is the construction of a new building for the taluk cutcherry of Uttangarai taluk in the district of Salem in the contemplation of the Government?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to order its construction in Harur instead of at Uttangarai?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Government understand that the local officers have under consideration a proposal to build a new taluk office in the Uttangarai taluk, but the matter has not yet been submitted for the orders of the Government. The question of the location of the office will be duly considered should it be decided to build one.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

299 [XXXIV] *Question.*—(a) Is it a fact that the court of enquiry over the loss of the *Camorta* has not ascertained the depth of the ship in water when she left Calingapatam and the sufficiency or otherwise of the ballast in the ship as she sailed out?

(b) Is it also a fact that the said court of enquiry has not gone into the question of the non-maintenance of nominal rolls by the agents of the ship?

(c) If so, will the Government be pleased to pursue the enquiry further, so as to find out the real and the exact cause for the foundering of the ship and thereby avoid the repetition of the mistake in future?

(d) Will the Government be further pleased to state whether any and what steps have been taken for the maintenance of lists of passengers by ship agents in future?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answers.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) The Marine court of enquiry was held at Rangoon under the orders of the Government of Burma, and this Government have not been furnished with a copy of the proceedings. The Government are therefore not in a position to reply to the Honourable Member's questions.

(*d*) No steps have been taken in the direction indicated by the Honourable Member. Emigration from India to Burma is free from all restrictions and the maintenance by shipping agents of nominal lists of passengers cannot be insisted on.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

300 [XXXV] *Question*.—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) The demand and the collection of Government revenue from lands in the taluk of Walavanad in the Malabar district for fasli 1311?

(*b*) Whether there was any and, if so, what amount of excess collections of land revenue in the said taluk of Walavanad during fasli 1311, and what led to such excess collections ?

(*c*) Whether such excess collections were the result of collections on the basis of the figures in rough pattas before they were duly revised and corrected ?

(*d*) Whether such excess collections have been already refunded to the parties concerned or, if not, why not ?

(*e*) The number of distraints of movables for the collection of the kist of fasli 1311 in the taluk of Walavanad ?

(*f*) The amount realized from the landholders of the said taluk in the shape of fees for conveying the distrained movable properties to the taluk cutcherry and as fees for watching them while under distraint ?

(*g*) Whether in any, and, if so, in how many, cases were the properties of both the pattadars and the occupants of lands simultaneously attached and proceeded against for arrears of revenue of fasli 1311 in the said taluk ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The information desired is not available in the Government office but will be called for.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

301 [XXXVI] *Question*.—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) Whether any, and, if so, how many, appeals were preferred by the landholders of Palghat, Walavanad, Kurumbranat and Calicut to the Board of Revenue against the orders of the special settlement officer regarding assessments of lands for fasli 1311 ?

(*b*) Whether it is true that the Board of Revenue sent the appeal petitions for the report of the settlement officer who made the assessments ?

(*c*) Whether in any, and, if so, in how many, cases the orders of the Board of Revenue on appeal differed from the recommendations of the settlement officer ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) & (*c*) The Board of Revenue will be requested to include information on the points indicated in the questions in the final settlement report, but the Government see no reason specially to call for a return now.

(*b*) The procedure indicated would be a proper one to follow: and the Government have no doubt that the Board have adopted it in cases where a report was required.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

302, 303 & **304** *Questions.*—**302** [XXXVII].—(*a*) Is it true that a low caste revenue inspector entered into and desecrated the Hindu temples at Parangode and Srikrishnapuram in the taluk of Walavanad for the purpose of attaching the movable properties therein ?

(*b*) If true, will the Government be pleased to state the amount of arrears which was due in each case and the number of Uralars in charge of the temples and whether the Uralars were approached for the payment of the arrears ?

303 [XXXVIII].—Is it a fact that the necessary puja vessels in the temple of Kolathur in Walavanad taluk with the holy rice offered to the god in some of them were attached and conveyed to the taluk cutcherry ?

304 [XXXIX].—Is it true that the copper drum in the temple of Kuruvampallam in Walavanad taluk was polluted, distrained and carried to the taluk cutcherry for arrears of kist ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

302 } **303** } **304** } *Answer.*—The Government have ascertained that the allegations contained in these questions are untrue.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

305 [XL] *Question.*—Is it the fact that the big cauldron—a vessel used for the preparation of *payasam* on a large scale—in Tirumathamkannu in Angádipuram amsam in the taluk of Walavanad was attached and removed to the taluk cutcherry and whether a female devotee was thereby prevented from making her offerings the next day ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—It is true that a copper cauldron was selected and made over to the *adhikari* by the *kariastan* of the temple when an attachment was issued. The Government have no knowledge that a female devotee was prevented from making her offerings.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

306 [XLI] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it true that the District Board of Malabar propose to close the dispensaries at Kuthuparamba, Quilandi and Triprayar and to convert the hospitals at Badagara and Nílambúr into dispensaries ?

(*b*) Is it true that the same District Board have proposed to effect an annual reduction of about Rs. 2,000 in the pay of the inspecting schoolmasters and of about Rs. 4,000 in the salary of the schoolmasters in the service of the Board ?

(*c*) If true, will the Government be pleased to note that the proposals, if given effect to, will greatly affect the interests of the public in a backward district and therefore order the carrying out of the proposals to be kept in abeyance, pending the final orders of the Government on them ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The proposals will not be given effect to until the final orders of the Government are received by the District Board.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

307 [XLII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to order the estate of Udaiyárpálaiyam to be omitted from, and the estate of Arni to be added to, the schedule to the Madras Impartible Estates Bill ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The provisions of the Bill are at present under consideration in communication with the Government of India, and the Governor in Council is therefore not in a position at present to reply to questions regarding the inclusion or exclusion of particular estates.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

308 [XLIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the consolidated travelling allowance of Rs. 25 a month now given to sub-assistant inspectors of schools is hardly sufficient to meet the expenses requisite for carrying out their wandering duties?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to order the abolition of the consolidated monthly travelling allowance in the case of the sub-assistant inspectors of schools, and to place them in the matter of mileage and travelling allowance on a footing of equality with either Public Works Department overseers or the inspectors of post offices who are paid a daily batta of Rs. 1-8-0 or Rs. 2, respectively?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Government have no reason for considering that the present allowance is insufficient, and do not purpose to alter the existing arrangement.

10. MEETING OF THE 27TH FEBRUARY 1903.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

* Same as 290 supra, p. 107.

* 309 [I] *Question.*— (*a*) With reference to the dismissal of the station-house officer Krishnaswami of Milavaram (Kistna) by the acting Superintendent of Police on 4th December 1900, will the Government be pleased to ascertain and state if an enquiry in accordance with the Police order No. 345 sanctioned by them had been made before the dismissal was ordered ?

(*b*) If the rules prescribed have not been observed, will the Government be pleased to direct that an enquiry be held on the charges against the station-house officer in accordance with the Police order quoted above ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—An enquiry preceded the dismissal of the station-house officer, and the informalities connected with it were, in the opinion of Government, not such as to occasion any failure of justice. The Government will not therefore interfere.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

310 [II] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to give wide publicity by means of the Press and the official District Gazettes to the existence of the Pasteur Institute at Kasauli, the convenient route thereto to be adopted by patients, the accommodation available at the institute or in the station, the scale of charges charged, and all other particulars which may be of use ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to defray the travelling and other expenses of poor patients who may proceed to the institute from this presidency, and notify the concession in the village sheets of the District Gazette ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government will consider what further dissemination of information regarding this matter may properly be undertaken.

(*b*) The Government would not be justified in undertaking such obligations.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

311 [III] *Question.*—Whether the Government will be pleased to move any further in the matter of improving the law regarding religious endowments ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Government are precluded from further action towards the alteration of Act XX of 1863.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

312 [IV] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to direct that sufficient quantities of available unoccupied lands in each village be reserved as pasture grounds, and all cultivation thereon prohibited ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.— The question does not admit of a categorical answer, but it may be broadly stated that no plan for providing pasture by reserving waste land "in each village" is at all practicable. The experiment was abandoned in 1890 after some years of trial. All that can prudently be done to secure pasture is being done.

In the richest parts of the country, where intensive cultivation is becoming the practice, there is little or no available unoccupied pasture ground ; but the straw, which the crops yield, furnishes a stock of fodder capable of feeding a much larger number of cattle than the same land would support if it were left common waste.

The Hon'ble Mr. Ratnasabhapati Pillai :—

313 [V] *Question.*— Will the Government be pleased to issue orders permitting free cutting of *karuvelan* trees on poramboke lands which may be required by the ryots for making ploughs and other implements of agriculture ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The answer is in the negative: and the Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to his question No. VI* at the meeting of this Council on the 8th April 1902. The Honourable Member is no doubt aware that, under the rules made under section 26 of the Madras Forest Act, a ryot may cut free of charge, for the purpose mentioned in his question or for other *bonâ fide* agricultural purposes, any trees standing on the Government waste land in the village which with due regard to local circumstances have not been placed either on the "reserved" or "classified" list of trees. * 217 *supra*, p. 78.

The Hon'ble Mr. Ratnasabhapati Pillai :—

314 [VI] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state why and under what circumstances it was decided to alter the designation of the landholders in Tanjore from "Mirasidars" into "Kudis" ?

(*b*) Is the change intended to convey any diminution of or derogation from the rights and privileges and other rights owned by them in the soil from time immemorial ?

(*c*) Whether the Government have taken into their consideration the grievance of the Tanjore landholders which they expressed upon the introduction of the change some fifteen or sixteen years ago, by declining to receive their annual pattas from the revenue officers with the altered designation of "Kudi" ?

(*d*) Whether the Government will be pleased to direct the restoration of the ancient title of "Mirasidar" ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) A copy of G.O., No. 1111, Revenue, dated 30th November 1887, will be communicated to the Honourable Member for his information.

(*b*) The use of the word was not intended to affect any rights or privileges one way or the other.

(*c*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*d*) The answer is in the negative.

The Hon'ble Mr. Ratnasabhapati Pillai :—

315 [VII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that, while large quantities of water in the Coleroon and the Cauvery are running to waste, hundreds of acres of rice-fields in the southern side of the main road leading to Lalgudi (Trichinopoly) depending upon the Iyen channel are now drying up ?

(*b*) Whether the Iyen channel has been a great failure during the last seven or eight years, being silted up, and whether any and what steps have been taken by the Public Works department to improve the supply ?

(*c*) Whether the wet lands under the channel which are assessed as double-crop lands have failed year after year for want of water, and whether in spite of the failure in the supply the full double assessments have been levied and collected ?

(*d*) Have any representations been made by the ryots concerned to the Board of Revenue or the Public Works department authorities, and, if so, with what result ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The first crop under the Iyen channel has been harvested; the second crop is still green.

(b) The Government do not consider that the Iyen channel has been a failure during the last seven or eight years. It is true that a quantity of sand enters the channel owing to the head-sluice which has only one shutter to each vent not being fitted to exclude it. The South Iyen channel was in 1899 cleared of silt at a cost of Rs. 2,570 and during the last two years Rs. 3,302 were spent in clearing the North Iyen channel. It has, however, been found that such clearances afford but temporary relief. It is hoped that the general lowering of the river-bed which will result from the improvements now being carried out to the Upper Anicut, estimated to cost Rupees 7,10,000, will have a beneficial effect on the Iyen channel. During the ten years ending with 1902–1903 Rs. 23,125 have been spent on repairing the Iyen channels.

(c) It is not the case that the crops have failed year after year. In the season 1899–1900 the crops failed for want of water in parts and remission was granted on 1,194 acres under the channel.

(d) Petitions have been received from the ryots concerned by the Executive Engineer, Trichinopoly Division, who is collecting information with the view of proposing improvements to the channel. During the last six years two petitions were received by the Board of Revenue and were transferred to the Collector of the district for disposal.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

316 [VIII] *Question*.—(a) Is it a fact that the three offices of Consulting Architect to Government, Superintendent, Lighthouse Division, and General Superintendent, Public Works Stores and Workshops, which were formerly held by two or three officers, are now held by a single officer, and, if so, from what date the new arrangement has been in force ?

(b) If a single officer has been in charge of the three offices, will the Government be pleased to state the circumstances under which it was found necessary to make this arrangement ?

(c) Are the Government in a position to state that the new arrangement, if any, has not caused prejudice to the efficiency of the work of the several offices in question ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(a) The offices of Consulting Architect to Government and General Superintendent, Public Works Stores and Workshops, have been combined for the past three years and that of Superintendent, Lighthouse Division, was temporarily added from the 14th April 1902.

(b) The absence on leave of the officer who held the appointments of Consulting Architect and General Superintendent, Public Works Stores and Workshops, and the fact that the work in the Lighthouse Division is drawing to a close.

(c) The temporary arrangement has not been prejudicial to efficiency.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

317 [IX] *Question*.—(a) Is it a fact that the Iyen channel in the district of Trichinopoly has got greatly silted up and that, in consequence of precarious supply of water in it, large extents of paddy fields to the south of the main road leading up to Lalgudi are drying up and the crops therein are failing ?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to cause the removal of the silt in the channel and not to collect the assessments on lands which have failed for want of water ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member's question has already been answered in the reply given to the Hon'ble Mr. Ratnasabhapati Pillai (question No. VII). *

* 315 *supra*, p. 115.

The Hon'ble Mr. PERRAJU PANTULU:—

318 [X] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the quantity of yarn spun in this presidency was in 1900–1901 27,653,000 lb. against 32,252,000 lb. in 1899–1900, showing a decline in the former year of 14·3 per cent.?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to state the reason of such decline?

(*c*) If there be no information on the subject, will the Government be pleased to enquire into the same?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes:—

Answer.—The figures quoted by the Honourable Member are substantially the same as those given on page 327 of the Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India for the year 1901–1902. The Honourable Member is referred to page 1 of the Explanatory Memoranda to the same Government publication for the causes to which the decline may be attributed in the production of yarn during the year 1900–1901.

The Hon'ble Mr. PERRAJU PANTULU:—

319 [XI] *Question.*—(*a*) With reference to the closure of the Gódávari and Kistna irrigation canals, have the Government ascertained whether it is practicable to arrange for their closure in December and January instead of during March to June every year?

(*b*) If not, will the Government be pleased to do so and direct a trial of such arrangement as regards any such canals?

(*c*) Is it feasible and practicable to effect silt clearance in those canals by dredging operations without their being closed and drained off for the purpose?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes:—

Answer.—The Honourable Member's suggestions are impracticable.

The Hon'ble Mr. PERRAJU PANTULU:—

320 [XII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that in the civil courts of this presidency process fees, *i.e.*, court-fee stamps paid into courts for effecting service of notices and summonses on parties and witnesses, are not fully refunded to the parties concerned though no such processes were issued? If so, why?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state what amount of the process fees paid into the civil courts for effecting service of summonses and notices but not utilised, none such having been issued, has been lying unrefunded during the last three years?

(*c*) Is there any rule restricting the amount of such refund in a year to any particular sum? If so, will the Government be pleased to set aside such rule?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes:—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer is in the negative. The Honourable Member is referred to High Court Circular No. 1229, dated 15th July 1873, printed on page 106 of the Civil Courts Guide.

(*b*) Information on the point is not available as separate accounts of unrefunded process fees are not maintained.

(*c*) There is no such rule.

The Hon'ble NAWAB SAIYID MUHAMMAD:—

321 [XIII] *Question.*—Whether the Revenue Settlement Manual is now under revision? If so, will the Government be pleased to cause a sufficient number of copies of the revised manual printed for the use of those desirous of submitting their views to Government in reference to the provisions contained therein, before they are approved and passed?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The manual is understood to be under departmental revision. It is a hand-book of departmental instructions compiled for the use of Government officers and has no official authority outside the department. The Government are unable to accept the Honourable Member's suggestion that public criticism should be invited on the compilation before it is issued.

The Hon'ble NAWAB SAIYID MUHAMMAD :—

322 [XIV] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the calendar of land revenue settlements in this presidency up to 30th June 1902?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—A copy of the calendar will be laid on the table.

The Hon'ble NAWAB SAIYID MUHAMMAD :—

323 [XV] *Question.*—Whether final reports on the introduction of resettlement in the Gódávari and Kistna districts have been received? If so, will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement containing the information asked for in question No. XXVII (*b*) * at the meeting of this Council held on the 2nd April 1901?

* 109 *supra*, p. 42.

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The final reports have been received. They will be published in due course and the information asked for will then be available to the Honourable Member.

11. MEETING OF THE 6TH APRIL 1903.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

324 [I] *Question.*—(*a*) With reference to question No. LVII * asked by the Hon'ble Mr. Jambulingam Mudaliyar at the Council meeting of the 9th December 1896 and repeated † by me at the meetings held on 23rd November 1897, 13th December 1898 and 19th December 1899 suggesting the desirability of reducing the rates of process fees levied in the courts of Subordinate and District Judges to the scale obtaining in the courts of the District Munsifs, and the reply that the matter was still under the consideration of the High Court and the Government, will the Government be pleased to state whether any, and what, decision has been arrived at?

* 430, Vol. I, p. 155.

† 576, 737 and 954, Vol. I, pp. 209, 264 and 340 respectively.

(*b*) If the matter is still pending disposal, will the Government be pleased to expedite the decision?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—In view of the fact that the process-service establishments have recently been strengthened at a cost of nearly a lakh of rupees *per annum*, and the present uncertainty as to the terms of the next Provincial Settlement, the Government are unable at present to reduce the existing scale of process fees. The matter will not however be lost sight of.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

325 [II] *Question.*—(*a*) With reference to my question No. XI ‡ asked at the meeting of the Council held on 23rd November 1897 regarding alleged difficulties and loss caused to the landholders in Tanjore and other districts in consequence of the action of recruiters in proceeding to villages and removing labourers in the midst of the cultivation season for emigration to the islands, and the reply of the Government that they were not aware of the existence of the difficulties complained of and that the labourers were free to go or stay as they might find to their advantage, will the Government be pleased to state whether they have since received any representations on the subject from the people concerned?

‡ 578, Vol. I, p. 210.

(*b*) If so, whether any, and what, action has been taken in the matter?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to safeguard the interests of the landholders either by executive or legislative action in view to their recovering the advances due to them by the labourers before the latter are permitted to emigrate?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to view favourably the suggestion that agricultural farm labourers should be required to produce, before they are permitted to leave India, acquittance certificates from the nearest magistrate, deputy tahsildar or tahsildar in proof of their having paid up to their landholders all dues legally recoverable?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—A petition from a body designated "The District Association of Tanjore, Kumbakónam," has been received by the Governor in Council, craving Government intervention to protect employers of agricultural labour from "injury caused by sudden and wanton desertion of their labourers." The Government see no sufficient ground for taking any steps to interfere with indigenous labour in the manner indicated in clause (*d*) of the question or otherwise.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

326 [III] *Question.*—With reference to question No. VIII § asked by me at the meeting of the Council held on 6th June 1899, will the Government be pleased to state whether any Civil Assistant Surgeons have been since appointed as examiners for the medical examinations of the apothecary and hospital assistant grades?

§ 858, Vol. I, p. 309.

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The answer to the question is in the negative.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

327 [IV] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that a large number of torch-light dacoities accompanied by torture were committed within the past two or three months in the villages of Kaliyanur, Olayur, Nayakkankuppam, Chettiyarpettai, Tirupatikunram (Conjeeveram taluk) and Siruvallur, Pavur, Nameli, Perumbidimaddu and Alividi Tangi (Arcot taluk)?

(*b*) Were the offenders concerned brought to trial and if so with what result?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer is in the negative. Only one case of dacoity is reported to have occurred within the limits of Tirupatikunram police station in Conjeeveram taluk during the last two or three months. Two cases of dacoity have been reported in Arcot taluk since January, one at Siruvallur and the other at Sirungatur, but it was not alleged in either case that any persons were tortured.

(*b*) The persons accused at the instance of the complainant in the Tirupatikunram case were discharged by the sub-magistrate who conducted the preliminary enquiry. The other two cases are still under investigation by the police.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

328 [V] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the District Board of Malabar propose to abolish their hospital in Badagara which has been in existence for many years?

(*b*) Whether the institution in question has not been of great service to the public?

(*c*) Whether, before passing final orders, if any, the Government will be pleased to consult the wishes of the people concerned?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—For want of funds the District Board have proposed to convert the hospital at Badagara into a dispensary, and the Government, after considering the petitions received from the inhabitants, have decided to sanction the proposal.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

329 [VI] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it in contemplation to establish a Pasteur Institute for South India at the cost of the Government, or is there any proposal before the Government to found one by private munificence?

(*b*) If not, will the Government be pleased to take into consideration the desirability of establishing an institute at some convenient place in South India for the benefit of the people of this presidency?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The subject of providing a Pasteur Institute for South India has been under consideration for some time, but the Government regret that they are not at present in a position to make any announcement regarding it.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

330 [VII] *Question.*—In view of the existing practice of clubbing to death stray dogs on public thoroughfares in mufassal municipalities, will the Government be pleased to recommend to the Municipal Councils some other humane mode of destruction, such as the establishment of lethal chambers?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The question of the most merciful method of destroying stray dogs has been often and fully reported on by the District Magistrates in whom the responsibility rests under section 230 (2) of the District Municipalities Act, and no more speedy or less painful method of killing dogs than by clubbing has hitherto been devised. Even supposing the existence of lethal chambers in all municipalities, the difficulty of catching the dogs and conveying them to the lethal chamber remains to be solved.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

331 [VIII] *Question.*—With reference to my question No. XIII * asked at the Council meeting, dated 27th August 1901, bringing to notice numerous cases of drowning in the Parthasarathi temple tank at Triplicane (Madras), and suggesting the desirability of planting iron railings inside the tank with sufficient interval of water space for bathing purposes, and the reply thereto that the attention of the President of the Municipal Commission would be drawn to the matter, will the Government be pleased to state whether any and what steps have been taken by the Municipality to ensure public safety?

* 133 supra, p. 49.

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Government have ascertained that, in August last, the President of the Municipality took action under section 326 of the City of Madras Municipal Act by calling upon the dharmakartas of the temple to take protective measures with the tank, and the tank was thereupon baled out and cleaned, but nothing further seems to have been done. A full report on the matter will be called for from the President.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

332 [IX] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that Mr. H. C. Poole, a first-grade Inspector of Salt and Abkári, shot himself dead with a revolver on 31st January last?

(*b*) Are the Government aware of the causes of the suicide and, if so, will they be pleased to state them?

(*c*) Is there any truth in the statement that the suicide was the result of departmental worry?

(*d*) Was he an old and experienced officer of nearly twenty-eight years' standing with an unblemished record of service?

(*e*) Is it a fact that Mr. Rule of the Salt department shot himself dead with a breech-loader in a Salt factory in Chingleput?

(*f*) Is it a fact that Mr. Moore also of the Salt department committed suicide by drowning himself in the sea off Colombo?

(*g*) Were there any departmental or Coroner's enquiries into the above-mentioned three cases of suicides?

If so, what were the results of the enquiries?

(*h*) What were the causes, so far as they are known, of the suicides of Messrs. Rule and Moore?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The suicide was due, so far as the Government are aware, to temporary insanity. Mr. Poole had suffered from the effects of sunstroke twice in 1896 and again in 1902 and at the time of his death had been granted leave to England on medical certificate.

(*c*) A defalcation had been reported in Mr. Poole's factory. Mr. Poole saw the Commissioner on the day before his death and was personally informed by him that, as he was unfit for duty, he need not worry himself over the matter.

(*d*) Mr. Poole's record was a fair one.

(*e*) No. Mr. Rule committed suicide in South Arcot in 1890.

(*f*) Mr. Moore is believed to have committed suicide by throwing himself into the sea from S.S. "Rewa" in 1895.

(*g*) There was a departmental inquiry into Mr. Rule's case which was duly reported by the Government to the Secretary of State. A report of the inquest in Mr. Poole's case was published at the time in the public press. There was no departmental inquiry. Mr. Moore's case could not be investigated in this country as it occurred out of India.

(*h*) The Government have no information as to the causes of Mr. Moore's suicide. He had been in ill-health for some years.

Mr. Rule is believed to have committed suicide under mental aberration brought about by anxiety about events of a private nature and by his failure in the special test examinations which he thought would prove a bar to his promotion.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

* 181 *supra*, p. 66.

333 [X] *Question.*—With reference to my question No. II * asked at the Council meeting held on 17th February 1902, will the Government be pleased to supplement the information furnished in their reply to the above question on the financial results of the introduction of the new settlement rates in the remaining taluks and parts of taluqs in Malabar, and furnish figures in regard to the old assessment, settlement assessment, and percentage of enhancement in such remaining taluks and parts of taluks ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The figures quoted in reply to the Honourable Member's question on the 17th February 1902 referred to the whole of the taluqs of Calicut, Palghat, Kurambranád, Walavanad, Ponnáni and Kóttayam. No estimate can be yet stated for the Chirakkal taluk, where classification is still in progress. The figures for the Ernad taluk are approximately—

	RS.
Old assessment	2,11,644
Settlement assessment	3,89,861
Percentage of increase	84

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

334 [XI] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to furnish information *districtwar* on the following points for the districts of Gódávari, Kistna, Trichinopoly, Tanjore, South Canara and other districts in which the new revenue settlements have been introduced :—

(*a*) The old assessment in each such district.

(*b*) The assessment as per settlement in each such district.

(*c*) The percentage of increase in each such district.

(*d*) The rate of commutation adopted in each such district.

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—A statement has been prepared and will be laid on the table.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

335 [XII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the alignment of the Marina Loop Railway has been finally settled ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the Buckingham Canal alignment has been abandoned in favour of the beach one ?

(*c*) Were the Government of Sir Arthur Havelock against the beach alignment, and did they recommend only the interior route along the Buckingham Canal ?

(*d*) Is not the Buckingham Canal route, which will tap the most populous centres of Mylapore and Triplicane, preferable as being more profitable and more convenient to the public?

(*e*) In case the beach alignment is adopted, will not the existing fine Marina be disfigured, and will it not cause grave inconvenience to the public resorting to the promenade?

(*f*) Will the Government be pleased to cause the whole question of the alignment to be reconsidered and the Buckingham Canal route adopted?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The question of constructing a loop of the South Indian Railway to serve the localities of San Thomé and Mylapore was considered by Government in 1898 and 1899. Various alignments were proposed and considered, and the feeling of the Government in the first instance was against a route along the Marina, the understanding being that the line would be directly on the promenade and not on the foreshore. The matter was referred to the President, Municipal Commission, who in his reply expressed himself in favour of a route that should strike the beach south of San Thomé and continue along the sands to the harbour.

The Government of Sir Arthur Havelock, although they did not finally commit themselves to the particular alignment proposed, withdrew the objections they had made to a railway along the Marina when it was made clear that the line would not be above the level of the sandy foreshore and would be practically invisible from the promenade; and that the alternative route along the Buckingham Canal would impede access to the Marina or render such access dangerous to carriage traffic besides involving other considerable disadvantages.

This Government saw no reason to dissent from the views recorded by their predecessors and, under the full impression that the proposed line would meet the requirements of important professional and commercial sections of the community of Madras and that the æsthetic objections were small in comparison with the interests involved, gave formal sanction to the proposal in 1901.

In these circumstances and in view of the dissatisfaction that has been expressed by the public, the Government will be glad to reconsider the matter from a point of view which is more in consonance with their own personal predilections.

The Hon'ble Mr. Ratnasabhapati Pillai :—

336 [XIII] *Question.*—With reference to my question No. II * asked at the Council meeting of 27th February last and the reply thereto, will the Government be pleased to arrange at least for the issue of free railway return passes to poor patients proceeding to the Pasteur Institute at Kasauli upon the production of a certificate from a medical officer of a grade not less than an assistant surgeon?

* 310 *supra*, p. 114.

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Government will be glad to consider this proposal.

The Hon'ble Mr. Ratnasabhapati Pillai :—

337 [XIV] *Question.*—With reference to the reduction of salt duty which came into effect from 18th March 1903, will the Government be pleased to take steps to cause a refund to be made at the rate of eight annas per maund on the unsold stock of salt remaining on the above date in the hands of merchants in this presidency?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The Government are not prepared to take action in the manner suggested.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

338 [XV] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state the names of the estates in respect of which litigation was pending on the 2nd of June 1902 in civil courts of original as well as appellate jurisdiction, and which was stayed by section 6 of the Madras Impartible Estates Act, 1902 ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The information on this matter before the Government, the correctness of which the Government cannot, however, guarantee, is to the effect that litigation pending on 2nd June 1902 was stayed in the case of the following estates :—Sangamvalsa, Nidadavólu-Baharazhalli-Ambarupeta, Munagala, Venkatagiri, Punganúru and Udaiyárpálaiyam.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATHI PILLAI :—

339 [XVI] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the Principal of the Madras Law College has posted a notice prohibiting his students from taking part in public movements against the authority of the Government ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to ascertain and state as to whether there were any special reasons and necessity for the issue of such a notice at the present time ?

(*c*) Is it proposed by the notice that the students should abstain from taking part even in movements intended for the purpose of representing to the Government public grievances and wants ?

(*d*) Will it be a breach of the notice if the students serve as "volunteers" during the ensuing session of the Indian National Congress at Madras for merely attending to the wants and comforts of the delegates and preserving order at the meetings of the session ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The notice to which the Honourable Member apparently refers is rule 7 of the Rules of Discipline in force in all colleges under Public Management, amongst others the Law College, and prohibits students from taking part "in political agitation directed against the authority of the Government."

(*b*) This rule was added by the Principal to the Conduct and Dress Regulations of the Law College not at the present time but three years ago, on the 5th April 1900, *i.e.*, immediately after it had been promulgated by the Government in G.O., No. 160, Educational, dated 31st March 1900.

(*c*) The answer is in the negative, provided that the movements referred to do not constitute agitation directed against the authority of the Government.

(*d*) The answer is in the negative.

The Hon'ble Mr. PERRAJU PANTULU :—

340 [XVII] *Question.*—With reference to G.O., No. 53, Revenue, dated 25th January 1901, will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the proceedings of the Board of Revenue submitted to the Government in pursuance of the requisition contained in paragraph 2 of the said Government Order and the order of the Government thereon ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The Government are unable to lay the paper on the table.

The Hon'ble Mr. PERRAJU PANTULU :—

341 [XVIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether paragraph 8 of Board's Standing Order No. 154 quoted in the margin was submitted to the Government before its issue and the Government's approval obtained therefor?

Cause of action in suits for emoluments.—In suits for emoluments the cause of action first accrues on the date of the plaintiff's appointment, and a fresh cause of action arises with the recurrence of every fresh period for which emoluments are due to the office-holder. It is immaterial for the purposes of such a suit in whose possession an inam happens to be or how long it has been in such possession. A village office is in the nature of an hereditary trust and every one who succeeds to it has a fresh cause of action against any adverse holder of the inam attached to it.

(*b*) Are the Government aware that under the said Standing Order, revenue courts trying suits under Madras Acts II of 1894 and III of 1895 in the district of Gódávari have decreed service inam lands to the working karnams in cases in which their recovery was barred under the previously existing law?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to rescind or suspend the said Standing Order pending the enfranchisement operations now going on in the district of Gódávari?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government approved of the ruling before it was incorporated in the Standing Orders.

(*b*) The Government have no information on the point.

(*c*) The Government see no reason to take the step suggested.

The Hon'ble Mr. PERRAJU PANTULU :—

342 [XIX] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it true that revenue officers in the Gódávari district are levying assessment on village service lands in the adverse possession of persons unconnected with the office, the recovery of which is time-barred, in the proprietary estates of the Gódávari district and paying the same to the present office-holders?

(*b*) If so, has this course been sanctioned by the Board of Revenue, and under what authority?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The levy of full assessment and the payment thereof to the village servants is the ordinary method of enforcing the object of the grant in cases where inam lands have been improperly alienated, and is doubtless adopted in Gódávari as well as elsewhere in the presidency. There is no time-bar to the exercise of the rights of the State in such cases.

The Hon'ble Mr. PERRAJU PANTULU :—

343 [XX] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to enquire whether any saving would be effected by having the printing work of Collectorates done by private agency in districts where reliable private presses exist? And if a saving would be effected, will the Government be pleased, as an experiment, to order the employment of private presses?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—Where opportunity offers, private presses are often employed in aid of the district presses, but it is not expedient to dispense with the latter. Private presses, perhaps, might tender for the printing of the District Gazettes at rates lower than those at which the work is at present turned out by the official presses; but experience in the past has proved that the risk of bad work, unpunctuality and misuse of official papers at private presses would more than outweigh any slight saving of cost.

The Hon'ble Mr. PERRAJU PANTULU :—

344 [XXI] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that out of the total number of 5,301 members of the District and Local Boards in this presidency only 308 were elected members in the past year?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the number of nominated councillors in the District and Local Boards in this presidency is far larger than it is in any other province in India?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to introduce a greater proportion of elected members into the said boards of this presidency than at present?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) In the year 1900–1901 there were 5,301 members on the District Boards, Taluk Boards and Union Panchayats taken together. On the District Boards alone there were 638 members and of these 308 were elected.

(*b*) Yes, but the system of local administration varies largely in the different provinces of India.

* 394–397, Vol. I, p. 328.

(*c*) The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to questions I * to IV at the meeting of the Council held on the 14th November 1899. The Government are still of opinion that the inhabitants of rural tracts in this presidency are not yet sufficiently advanced to appreciate and avail themselves of the elective franchise with advantage to the administration.

The Hon'ble Mr. PERRAJU PANTULU :—

345 [XXII] *Question.*—With reference to the observations † of the Hon'ble Mr. Arundel in his budget speech at the meeting of the Council held on the 4th day of April 1898, will the Government be pleased to state whether any and what scheme was formulated as regards delta superintendents?

† He (the Hon'ble Mr. N. Subba Rao Pantulu) will remember speaking on the question of the delta superintendents, and I personally cordially agreed with him that something should be done to change the system. I have a letter in my hands which I received from Mr. deWinton written from Calicut, in which he mentions—he writes the letter on his own motion—that the matter is now being taken up in earnest and a scheme will be formulated shortly, that a draft of the scheme had already been sent and that he is now engaged upon it.

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—A scheme has been formulated, but as it involves a large increase of expenditure which will require the sanction of the Government of India, the Government regret that they are at present precluded from giving the Honourable Member the information he asks for regarding the nature of the scheme.

The Hon'ble Mr. PERRAJU PANTULU :—

346 [XXIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Have the Government received the final general memorandum of the sugarcane crop of the season 1902–1903?

(*b*) If so, will they be pleased to publish the same?

(*c*) Is it a fact that in this presidency there is a general decline of about ten per cent. in the cultivated area of sugarcane and the yield amounted to 93,400 tons?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any measures will be adopted to afford relief to sugarcane growers?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The final report on the sugarcane crop in this presidency for the current agricultural year was published in three of the Madras newspapers in January last. The final general memorandum on the crop for all India was published by the Statistical department of the Government of India about the beginning of last month.

(*c*) The Honourable Member is quoting correctly from the final general memorandum referred to. The figures refer to ryotwari areas only.

(*d*) The figures do not indicate that sugarcane growers are in need of relief: nor do the Government undertake to insure growers of particular crops against the ordinary risks of agriculture. It may be mentioned, however, that with the object of investigating sugarcane disease an experimental station has been opened at Samalkota in the Gódávari district under the supervision of the Government Botanist.

The Hon'ble Mr. PERRAJU PANTULU :—

347 [XXIV] *Question.*—(*a*) Are the Government aware of the notification recently issued by the Government of Bombay informing passengers and emigrants desirous of proceeding to South Africa that the Government of Cape Colony have passed an Act which came into force on 30th January 1903 for the purpose of restricting immigration into that Colony?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to publish a similar notification warning the emigrants from this presidency of the risk they incur in proceeding to the Colony?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to publish in their Gazette the said Act and its translations for the enlightenment of those concerned in the emigration?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to move the Government of India or the Secretary of State in view to attempt to secure any favourable modification of the said Act of the Government of Cape Colony?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) & (*b*) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the notification No. 87 at page 273 of the *Fort St. George Gazette* of the 3rd March 1903 in which the more important provisions of the Act were published.

(*c*) Vernacular translations of the notification will be published.

(*d*) It was announced in the Supreme Legislative Council that the Government of India are already in communication with the Secretary of State on this subject.

The Hon'ble Sir GEORGE ARBUTHNOT :—

348 [XXV] *Question.*—Can the Government give any information as to the approximate date when work is likely to be commenced on the harbour improvements scheme?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Government regret that they are unable to give the information asked for as the detailed estimates are still under preparation.

The Hon'ble Sir GEORGE ARBUTHNOT :—

349 [XXVI] *Question.*—Will the Government be willing to assist an important local industry by using Madras Portland cement in the work of the harbour improvement, provided the price does not exceed that of imported English cement, and provided the quality is satisfactory to the local Government engineers, and is favourably reported upon by the best English cement experts as suitable for harbour construction purposes?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Government are unable to give any assurance that any particular manufacture of cement will be used in the harbour works. The choice must plainly be left to the engineers responsible for the construction.

The Hon'ble MR. PERRAJU PANTULU *for* the Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

350 [XXVII] *Question.*—(*a*) Are the Government aware that there are so many as thirty gentlemen in the list of first-grade munsifs, that Mr. J. C. Fernandez is but the 20th in the second grade and that his appointment to act as Sub-Judge of Calicut has caused great dissatisfaction to the District Munsifs who are his seniors and who are, many of them, officers of proved merit and qualifications?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state the reasons which induced them to do so or be pleased to give the acting appointment to the most deserving among the first-grade munsifs?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Government are unable to tell the Honourable Member more than that the vacancy was a six weeks' vacancy which was filled up, in communication with the High Court, in the manner thought most conducive to the interests of the public service.

The Hon'ble Mr. PERRAJU PANTULU *for* the Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

351 [XXVIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the vacancy caused on the Municipal Council of Coimbatore in its sixth ward by the transfer of Mr. Tyler to North Arcot been filled up—whether by election or by nomination?

(*b*) If by nomination, will the Government be pleased to state why the right of election was not exercised?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to see that the exercise of the right to elect is not foregone by any ward or council except for very extraordinary reasons?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative; the second and third parts therefore require no answer.

The Hon'ble Mr. GOVINDARAGHAVA AIYAR :—

352 [XXIX] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state on what principles promotions in the Salt, Abkári and Separate Revenue departments are made?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the efficiency of an officer is tested by the number of cases he is able to show and, if so, whether they are aware that such a test leads to malpractices in regard to cases, and whether the Government will be pleased to introduce another standard?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state why Mr. Flemying, an Inspector on Rs. 300, was made an Assistant Commissioner while there were several officers on Rs. 350 and Rs. 400?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—Promotions in the department are made after careful consideration of the claims of all officers concerned, both as regards their seniority and their fitness.

The Hon'ble Mr. GOVINDARAGHAVA AIYAR :—

353 [XXX] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the statements of the witnesses examined by Captain Smyth, R.E., at Bellary in connection with Mangapatnam railway disaster differ from the statement of the witnesses examined by the committee of enquiry ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table all the papers connected with Mangapatnam railway disaster inclusive of the statements taken by Captain Smyth, R.E. ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The persons examined by Captain Smyth, R.E., were not, properly speaking, witnesses but friends and relatives who visited Mangapatnam after the accident. Their statements relate to thier personal difficulties in getting to the spot or in sending telegrams and therefore differ in character from the statements of witnesses examined by the committee that enquired into the causes of the accident.

(*b*) The Government have already published all the official papers connected with the disaster which they intend to publish.

The Hon'ble Mr. GOVINDARAGHAVA AIYAR :—

354 [XXXI] *Question.*—(*a*) Are the Government aware that the Collector of Bellary has issued a circular directing the village reddies in the district not to admit into their villages persons coming from the town of Bellary as it is affected with plague, and that there is no prohibition to persons coming from other infected parts entering into their villages in the district and that the circular of the Collector is causing considerable hardship ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to direct the circular to be withdrawn ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government are aware that the Collector, in order to prevent risk of plague infection, issued a circular to village reddies advising them to exclude from their villages persons coming from Bellary.

(*b*) The Collector has already withdrawn the circular.

12. MEETING OF THE 20TH NOVEMBER 1903.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

355 [I] *Question*.—(*a*) In the selection by District Boards and Municipal Councils of candidates for nomination to the Legislative Council, is it necessary that there should be a final selection at a given centre in cases where a candidate secures an absolute majority at the preliminary voting and that the voting delegates should thus be put to the expense of attending the final meeting ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to move for the necessary alterations in the rules framed under the Indian Councils Act and obtain the sanction of the Secretary of State thereto ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The Government consider it both necessary and expedient that there should be a final selection at a given centre in all cases, and are therefore not inclined to propose the revision of the regulations.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

356 [II] *Question*.—(*a*) Is it the fact that the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. E. C. Dean, jailor, Central Jail, Trichinopoly, on the 25th April 1903, has been filled up by the promotion of Mr. Marshall, jailor of the District Jail at Madura ?

(*b*) Is not Mr. P. Vittal Rao of the Cuddalore District Jail first in rank among the District Jailors and thus senior to Mr. Marshall ?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to order that Mr. P. Vittal Rao be promoted ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The Government have no information to give the Honourable Member on the subject.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

357 [III] *Question*.—(*a*) Are the Government aware that R. S. Ramaswami Aiyar, late taluk head accountant, Mélúr taluk in the district of Madura, has been dismissed from service for failure to submit a landed property return ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to direct the reconsideration of the order and either grant him some compassionate allowance or accept his resignation ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The Government see no reason to review the decision in the case which was one where very clear orders were wholly disregarded.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

358 [IV] *Question*.—(*a*) Are the Government aware that on the road between the village of Kondotti and Calicut town in the Calicut taluk, in the district of Malabar, there are three toll-gates within a distance of eighteen miles, that carts passing from Kondotti to Calicut have each to pay annas twelve as toll at the three gates daily, and

(*b*) that the petition to the President, District Board, Malabar, of Vallikkott Cherumanisseri Lakshmiammal residing in Panniankara amsam in Calicut taluk to remedy the grievance by the removal of two of the toll-gates beyond Kondotti has met with the endorsement, dated 17th February 1903, that nothing can be done in the matter ?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to disapprove the maintenance of three toll-gates within a distance of eighteen miles and to order that the gates may be so located as to avoid the payment of toll at more than one of them in a day ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) The answer is in the negative.

(*c*) The matter will be considered.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

359 [V] *Question*.—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the article which appeared in the *Madras Mail*, dated 25th March 1903, about the port of Tuticorin ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any steps have been taken to remedy the defects pointed out therein and what policy the Government intend to follow regarding the port of Tuticorin ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The Government have perused the letters published in the *Madras Mail*, dated 25th March 1903, regarding the port of Tuticorin.

Tenders for a self-propelling bucket-ladder dredger, capable of raising 400 tons an hour, of carrying 400 to 500 tons in its hoppers and steaming when loaded 7 to 8 knots an hour, have been obtained from England and are now under the consideration of the Government. The dredger is intended for use in any port except the port of Madras where dredging may be found necessary and the Government as at present advised intend that the dredger should be first used at Tuticorin.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

360 [VI] *Question* (*a*).—Is G.O., No. 904 M., dated 1st July 1903, intended to prohibit steps of reasonable dimensions over drains in municipalities without porticos over them and leading to dwelling houses abutting on streets ?

(*b*) If not, will the Government be pleased to make it clear so that difficulties may not be experienced in obtaining permission for steps to dwelling houses ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The order prohibits such encroachments except with the previous approval of the Collector which will doubtlessly be accorded on reasonable grounds.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

361 [VII] *Question* (*a*).—Is it a fact that panchayats are appointed by Government in Rangoon to ascertain and fix the incomes of income-tax assessees and that thereby the incidence of unequal assessments is minimised there ?

(*b*) If it is, will the Government be pleased to introduce the system in this Presidency and first give it a trial in the district of Madura ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—(*a*) This Government have no information regarding the system of assessment in Burma beyond certain passages in the published Income-tax reports of that province, and they have no acquaintance with the details of the system or what effect it has on the incidence of the assessments.

(*b*) The Government see no sufficient reason to alter the system which is in force in this presidency.

The Hon'ble NAWAB SAIYID MUHAMMAD *for* the Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

362 [VIII] *Question* (*a*).—Will the Government be pleased to state what percentage of the road-cess collections has been spent during the last five years on village communications in the presidency, what percentage on the main roads, and what percentage has been absorbed in the general revenue of the local boards concerned ?

(*b*) Is it the case that, as a rule, village communications do not receive as much attention from the Local Boards as they are entitled to, and that, as often as not, contributions are demanded by the local boards from the villagers concerned when they apply for the improvement of the village communications ?

(*c*) Is it the case that, in consequence of the unsatisfactory condition of village communications, ryots are seriously handicapped in conveying their produce to the accessible markets ?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to insist that a fixed percentage of the road-cess which is exclusively contributed by the villagers shall be spent upon village communications ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) The figures which the Honourable Member requires are these :—

Years.	Percentage of expenditure on village roads to the income from land-cess.	Percentage of expenditure on main roads to the income from land-cess.	Percentage of income from land-cess utilized for other purposes.
1898–1899	4·3	55·3	40·4
1899-1900	4·8	59·1	36·1
1900–1901	4·4	56·2	39·4
1901–1902	4·1	56·2	39·7
1902–1903	5·1	60·8	34·1

(*b*) & (*c*) The Government have no precise information on these points; but the development of communications cannot proceed faster than available resources permit.

(*d*) In their order No. 1686 L., dated 14th September 1895, which has been placed on the Editors' Table, the Government have already prescribed a minimum for expenditure on communications generally. The Government are not prepared to go farther in this matter.

The Hon'ble NAWAB SAIYID MUHAMMAD *for* the Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

363 [IX] *Question*.—(*a*) Is it a fact that the Government have been making contributions to the local boards for some time past towards the improvement of railway feeder roads ?

(*b*) What is the total amount of Government contribution so made during the last five years, and have the Government satisfied themselves that such contributions have been fully taken advantage of by the local boards concerned ?

(*c*) What is the corresponding amount expended upon the purpose during the same period by the local boards concerned ?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to state, as far as information is available, how many railway stations there are in the presidency which are still without any feeder roads at all, or any communications worth the name ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government have made such contributions in 1902–1903 and again in the current year.

(*b*) In 1902–1903 grants aggregating Rs. 1,96,700 and in the current year aggregating Rs. 1,50,000 have been given for feeder roads. To ensure that these provincial contributions are properly spent, the Government receive from each board a monthly statement showing the progress of expenditure in each month.

(*c*) Out of the contribution of Rs. 1,96,700 made in 1902–1903 and referred to in the answer to clause (*b*), all but Rs. 19,280 have been actually spent up to date by the local boards concerned.

(*d*) The information is not available.

The Hon'ble Nawab Saiyid Muhammad *for* the Hon'ble Mr. Ratnasabhapati Pillai :—

364 [X] *Question*.—(*a*) Is it a fact that in one range of East Nannilam in Tanjore during the last fasli immemorial seed-bed tanks, measured as such in the Pymash of 1830, have been brought under assessment for the first time in the revenue history of the district because the tank was used as a nursery?

(*b*) Have the pattadars in the case of the above seed-bed tanks an immemorial right recognised and admitted by Government in the pymash to use the tanks as nurseries?

(*c*) Under what circumstances was the assessment imposed in only one Inspector's range in a whole district?

(*d*) Were any notices of civil suits sent to the Collector, and, if so, with what result?

(*e*) What was the total amount of assessment imposed in the range, and what amount was collected?

(*f*) Were any and what amounts refunded to the pattadars concerned?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—The Government have no information on the matters referred to. A report has been called for.

The Hon'ble Nawab Saiyid Muhammad *for* the Hon'ble Mr. Ratnasabhapati Pillai :—

365 [XI] *Question*.—(*a*) Are the Government aware that a vast field is being opened out in the matter of the plantain fibre industry, and whether any and what progress is being made in this presidency towards the development of the industry?

(*b*) Have any and, if so, what steps been taken by the Government towards the dissemination of the knowledge of the industry among the people of the districts in which plantain trees are grown in abundance?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to take into consideration the desirability of appointing a temporary staff trained in the business to go out into the plaintain-growing districts to put the people in the way of learning the process of extracting and preparing the fibre and to distribute by way of sale the necessary appliances and tools required for the purpose?

(*d*) Has it been ascertained that the prepared fibre is suitable not only for coir, but also for the manufacture of clothes?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government believe that the extraction of plantain fibre is an important industry, but have no information as to the progress of the industry in this presidency.

(*b*) A Note on "simple machines for extracting plantain fibre" has been published as a bulletin (Vol. II, No. 47) of the Agricultural department and can be purchased at the Government Press at the price of 2 annas. It is

intended to have this note translated in a simple style into Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam, and to embody in it information as to the comparative value of the various species of fibre-yielding plantains and as to the firms who deal in the fibre. The translations will be published in the District Gazettes.

The Curator of the Government Botanic Gardens and Parks has also during the last year given demonstration in the method of extracting the fibre to a number of people in Coonoor, Burliar and Kullar.

(*c*) The Government are not prepared at present to appoint a staff as suggested.

(*d*) The Government have no information on the point.

The Hon'ble NAWAB SAIYID MUHAMMAD *for* the Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

366 [XII] *Question.*—(*a*) Are the Government in a position to give definite information regarding the dacoities recently prevalent in the districts of Chingleput and North Arcot, and, if information is available, will the Government be pleased to give the Council full particulars regarding—

(1) the origin and constitution of the several gangs who committed the dacoities;
(2) the number of dacoities committed ;
(3) the value of the properties lost ;
(4) the number of lives lost and persons permanently injured ;
(5) the number of cases prosecuted ;
(6) the number of cases which ended in conviction ;
(7) the value of the properties recovered ; and
(8) the number of cases pending investigation, if any ?

(*b*) Have the gangs disappeared now ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) The dacoities are committed chiefly by local gangs of Koravas and Jogis assisted by local Pariahs. In Chingleput district 17 dacoities have been committed since the 1st January 1903; the aggregate value of the property alleged to have been lost in them is Rs. 7,411 ; no lives were lost and no persons were permanently injured ; prosecutions have been instituted in seven cases, in two of which the accused have been convicted; the aggregate value of the property recovered is Rs. 1,095; seven cases are still under investigation.

In North Arcot district, 29 dacoities have occurred during the present year; the property alleged to have been lost in them is valued at Rs. 4,952 ; no persons were killed and none were permanently injured; in 19 cases prosecutions have been instituted; the accused were convicted in five cases; the aggregate value of the property recovered is Rs. 91 ; six cases are still under investigation.

(*b*) The gangs have not disappeared, but they have been less active of late. Several members of the gangs have been dealt with under chapter VIII of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The Hon'ble NAWAB SAIYID MUHAMMAD *for* the Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

367 [XIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is any and what information available regarding the gang of dacoits in Salem known as the "Koolangolan brothers" ?

(*b*) What is the number of dacoities and murders committed by the above gang, and whether in any and what cases the crimes were detected and punished ?

(*c*) Is the gang still at large and, if so, what special measures have been taken to arrest and bring them to justice ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) The gang has disappeared from the Salem district and it is not known where the gang is now. No crime has been committed by the gang since June 1902.

(*b*) Eight murders and two dacoities have been committed. None of these crimes have been detected.

(*c*) The members of the gang are still at large. Special detectives have been and are still endeavouring to effect their arrest.

The Hon'ble NAWAB SAIYID MUHAMMAD *for* the Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

368 [XIV] *Question*.—(*a*) Whether the settlement has been introduced in all the taluks of Malabar and if so with what financial results under the following heads :—

(1) What was the old ayan assessment, the old local cesses and the total of both either talukwar or for the whole district?

(2) What is the ayan assessment, the local cesses under the new assessment, and the total of both either talukwar or for the whole district?

(3) What are the percentages of increase between the old and the new demands, including the local cesses as finally settled talukwar and for the whole district?

(*b*) If the settlement has not been introduced into the whole district, will the Government be pleased to furnish the figures under the heads specified in clause (*a*) of this question for the taluks in which the new rates have been finally introduced?

(*c*) Whether the Government are in a position to state whether the economic condition of the district will permit the imposition of the additional taxation without serious hardship to the ryots concerned?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—(*a*) & (*b*) The settlement has been introduced into seven of the ten taluks of Malabar including the Wynaad. The statistics asked for by the Honourable Member are not, at present, available.

(*c*) The Government have every reason to believe that the increase of assessment will be easily borne by the ryots.

The Hon'ble NAWAB SAIYID MUHAMMAD *for* the Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

369 [XV] *Question*.—(*a*) Whether in any and what districts or local areas has the Planters Labour Act, 1903, passed at the last Madras session been introduced?

(*b*) Whether such introduction, if any, was made by the Government of their own motion or on the application of the planters concerned?

(*c*) Whether in the local areas in which the Act has been introduced it is being worked smoothly?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The provisions of the Act have not yet been extended to any area within the Presidency.

The Hon'ble NAWAB SAIYID MUHAMMAD *for* the Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

370 [XVI] *Question*.—Whether the Madras Marina loop line has been finally abandoned or whether it is in contemplation to adopt an alternative inland route, and, if so, whether any and what decision has been arrived at?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The Marina loop line has been finally abandoned. It is not in contemplation to adopt an alternative inland route.

The Hon'ble NAWAB SAIYID MUHAMMAD *for* the Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

371 [XVII] *Question.*—Whether there is any near prospect of the third-class passengers in trains being provided with latrine accommodation, and, if so, whether the provision will take the form of a separate retiring carriage to be attached to the trains instead of each carriage being fitted up with a closet?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—All new third-class carriages are being fitted with latrines and old third-class carriages are being similarly provided as rapidly as practicable. The provision will not take the form of a separate retiring carriage to be attached to each train.

The Hon'ble NAWAB SAIYID MUHAMMAD *for* the Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

372 [XVIII] *Question.*—What is the condition of the plague in Ootacamund, Coonoor, Méttupálaiyam and Coimbatore, and whether there are signs of the epidemic going down or disappearing?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—No case of plague has been reported at Ootacamund, since 28th October and the epidemic there appears to be subsiding. At Coonoor, Méttupálaiyam and Coimbatore, however, cases are still occurring daily, and there are no present signs of the epidemic disappearing.

The Hon'ble NAWAB SAIYID MUHAMMAD *for* the Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

373 [XIX] *Question.*—(*a*) Whether any, and, if so, what assistance is being rendered by this Government to the Madras Industrial Exhibition Committee?

(*b*) Whether the Government have instructed the District officers to render help to the committee in the selection and transmission of exhibits and otherwise?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government, in an order to which the fullest publicity was given, expressed their interest in, and sympathy with, the proposed experiment of holding an Industrial Exhibition. An application for pecuniary assistance was received a few days ago and is now under consideration.

(*b*) District officers were instructed to give such aid as is possible to the committee in the matter of securing suitable exhibits.

The Hon'ble NAWAB SAIYID MUHAMMAD *for* the Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

374 [XX] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the letter of Mr. Alfred Webb, M.P., published in London in *India* for September last and republished in the *Hindu* of the 8th October, complaining against the cruel treatment accorded to a convict in the Madras Penitentiary?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the Superintendent of the Madras Penitentiary awarded thirty stripes to a convict in August last for the technical offence of being in possession of a small quantity of snuff?

(*c*) Whether it is true that the convict was flogged by two warders in succession?

(*d*) Whether it is also true that as a result of the flogging the man was under treatment in the Penitentiary hospital for deep excavated wounds on his person?

(*e*) If the facts are as stated above, will the Government be pleased to take notice of the conduct of the officer concerned, and also to take steps to prevent conduct of the kind complained against?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) The attention of Government had been drawn to the letter.

(*b*), (*c*), (*d*) & (*e*) The Government called for a report on the allegations in the letter, but the report received is not sufficiently full to enable the Government to answer the Honourable Member's questions.

The Hon'ble NAWAB SAIYID MUHAMMAD *for* the Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

375 [XXI] *Question.*—(*a*) Have any representations been made to the District authorities and the Government, since 1896, by the pattadars of the village of *Kilikudu* (Trichinopoly district, Trichinopoly taluk) regarding the deteriorating condition of their irrigation channel called the *Nattu Vaikal*?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the channel is getting deeper and deeper during the last several years by the force and volume of the current, and that in consequence the water in the channel is more than twelve feet below the level of the adjoining fields?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the District authorities, both Public Works and Revenue departments, have, from 15th December 1896, repeatedly recognised the necessity of improving the condition of the channel, and that the Collector of Trichinopoly sent the following endorsement to the pattadars concerned on 9th January 1901 :—

"An estimate for Rs. 700 for constructing a dam to the 'Nattu Vaikal' has been submitted to the Superintending Engineer for sanction, and the work will be undertaken by the Public Works department as early as possible"?

(*d*) Did the Collector two years afterwards inform the pattadars in his D. Dis. No. 2794, dated 23rd December 1902, that the estimate for the dam was not yet sanctioned and that in lieu thereof it was "proposed to build a regulating bridge at the point where the *Nattu Vaikal* crosses the Uttamaseri road (which will much reduce the quantity of water to be discharged at the tail end of the channel), and that the estimate for a dam of cheap class will be taken up when the estimate for the road is revised"?

(*e*) What is the quantity of wet land fed by the channel in question, and what are the ayan revenue and the local cesses realized from these lands?

(*f*) Have the pattadars finally petitioned the Government or the local authorities to take over the lands and pay them compensation for the value of the lands suffering from defective irrigation as well as of the lands absorbed by the bed of the channel?

(*g*) Have the pattadars requested that a responsible officer of the Revenue or the Public Works department may be deputed by Government to inspect the condition of the channel, and, if so, with what result?

(*h*) Have the pattadars finally notified in their last representation their intention to seek their remedies in a civil court?

(*i*) Will the Government be pleased to place all connected papers on the table and also cause immediate action to be taken to afford relief to the pattadars concerned?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The Government have no information on the subject and have received thus far no representations from the pattadars in question.

The Hon'ble NAWAB SAIYID MUHAMMAD *for* the Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

376 [XXII] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to furnish the Council with such information as may be available at present regarding the origin and extent of the disaster caused last week by the floods at Cuddapah?

(*b*) Were the floods due to any causes which could have been prevented, if sufficient precautions had been taken?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the breached anicut of the Patha-Cuddapah tank contributed in a considerable measure to raise the level of the flood, and had sufficient precautions been taken in respect of the tank by the authorities in charge of it?

(*d*) Did Golla Subba Reddi, the village magistrate, with the help of nearly 200 men, cut the road towards the east end of the bund of the tank and thereby render valuable service in mitigating the disaster ?

(*e*) What is the extent of the damage caused under the following heads ?—

(1) Loss of human lives ;
(2) Loss of cattle ;
(3) Destruction of human dwellings, pukka as well as katcha, and other buildings, their number and value ;
(4) Loss of property and its value ; and
(5) The probable number of persons who have suffered by the disaster.

(*f*) Has any, and if so what, relief been already afforded to the sufferers by the Collector ?

(*g*) What further relief is proposed to be afforded by the Government in the shape of money grants either absolutely or by way of loan and of building materials available from the Government forests ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Collector reports that Cuddapah town was flooded for three hours on Friday evening the 6th instant. Many hundred huts, godowns and walls are said to have been destroyed. The origin of the flood was the overflowing of the Bugga stream, which was caused by the breach of two tanks to the south of the river.

(*b*) It is not possible to say at present.

(*c*) The Collector states that the remains of the breached anicut of the Patha-Cuddapah tank contributed seriously to raise the level of the water. There is no further information on this point.

(*d*) According to the Collector's report, the facts are as stated by the Honourable Member.

(*e*) No loss of human life is reported ; the Government are unable to give detailed information on the other points mentioned by the Honourable Member.

(*f*) The Collector reports that he has already spent Rs. 200 for the relief of sufferers and will make free grants of building materials to those deserving it under the Forest rules. A further sum of Rs. 1,000 has been placed at the Collector's disposal.

(*g*) The extent and nature of the relief to be finally given can only be determined after receipt of complete information from the Collector.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO *for* the Hon'ble Mr. PERRAJU PANTULU :—

377 [XXIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Are there any rivers in this presidency that can be utilized as sources of electric power ?

(*b*) Can the rivers of Gódávari and Kistna be used for the development of electric power that can be worked at a profit either at the anicuts or any other place ?

(*c*) Have the Government ever enquired into the subject ; if so, will they be pleased to publish the results of the enquiry ?

(*d*) If no enquiry was made, will the Government be pleased to make one and publish the result ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) & (*b*) Any river in which there is a constant flow and a sufficient fall might be utilized for the generation of electric power. The Kistna river cannot be so utilized as the flow is not constant throughout the year, but there is no reason why suitable sites for power-works should not be

found on the Gódávari. Whether the enterprise would be profitable or not would, of course, depend on such considerations as the nature of the industry.

(c) Enquiries have been made in connection with the Periyár Project and the Cauvery. The Honourable Member will be furnished with a copy of the note, dated November 1897, on the utilization of the water-power, Periyár Project, containing an account of the steps taken in the matter till then. The Report of the Committee appointed by the Secretary of State to consider the question of the utilisation of the power, printed in the note as appendix II, was published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 3rd October 1893, and was issued in pamphlet form to enquirers at the time. The notice, dated 28th May 1897, calling for tenders was also published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* and the leading newspapers and engineering journals in India and in England. In response to this notice applications were received from various firms and individuals in India and abroad but the negotiations were in no case successful, as no supply, all the year round, could be guaranteed as asked for. The Periyár Project is designed primarily in the interests of irrigation, and if a perennial supply were given, water let out of the lake during the non-irrigation season would not only run to waste but would considerably diminish the volume of water in the reservoir. Investigations are being made for increasing the storage capacity of the lake and for forming a supplemental reservoir in the plains, and until this scheme has been investigated, the question of the use of the water-power of the project has to lie over.

As regards the Cauvery river, the falls at Sivasamudram having been utilized by the Mysore Darbar, the Executive Engineer, Salem division, was directed in 1900 to ascertain the suitability for the generation of electric power from the falls at Hogenakal in the Dharmapuri taluk of that district. On the Executive Engineer reporting that the head available at the falls was insufficient, he was directed to investigate the feasibility of taking off a leading channel from the river at some distance above the falls and carrying it along the hill side until a sufficient head could be obtained.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO *for* the Hon'ble Mr. PERRAJU PANTULU :—

378 [XXIV] *Question.*—(a) Have the Government any statistics or information on the question as to whether the physique of the people at large in this presidency during the last thirty years has been deteriorating or not?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to publish the same?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—There are no such statistics, but the Government have no reason to suppose that there has been any deterioration in the physique of the people.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO *for* the Hon'ble Mr. PERRAJU PANTULU :—

379 [XXV] *Question.*—(a) How many ryotwari villages are there in this presidency with a population of 1,000 and above?

(b) How many of them have post offices and how many have not?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to take steps to have post offices in such villages with a population of 1,000 and above as have not had post offices therein?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(a) The Honourable Member is referred to the Provincial tables and village statistics published with the Madras Census Report for 1901.

(b) The Government are not in possession of the information asked for and they do not think any useful purpose would be served by obtaining it.

(c) The Government do not propose to take any special action in the direction indicated. Post office facilities are being steadily developed.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO *for* the Hon'ble Mr. PERRAJU PANTULU :—

380 [XXVI] *Question.*—(*a*) Since the passing of the Reformatory Schools Act of 1897 has this Government submitted to the Government of India any scheme for the creation of Reformatory Schools in this presidency?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to provide in the next budget for the establishment of a Reformatory School at Rajahmundry like the one in Chingleput?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) The arrangements for accommodation at Chingleput are adequate in existing circumstances and there is therefore no present intention of making provision for an additional Reformatory School at Rajahmundry.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO *for* the Hon'ble Mr. PERRAJU PANTULU :—

381 [XXVII] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the scheme report as regards the resettlement of the Guntur portion of the Kistna district has been submitted to Government; if so, will the Government be be pleased to lay it on the Council table?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to direct the publication of the said scheme report and give the people opportunity to submit their representations in respect thereof before final orders are passed thereon?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer—(*a*) The report referred to has not yet been received by the Government.

(*b*) When received the Government will be prepared to consider whether the report can be published or copies of it given.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO *for* the Hon'ble Mr. PERRAJU PANTULU :—

382 [XXVIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether there was any and, if so, what extent of damage done by the recent Kistna floods and which villages in the district of Kistna were affected thereby?

(*b*) Has the Collector submitted any detailed report on the subject; and, if so, will the Government be pleased to lay the same on the Council table; if not will the Government be pleased to call for one?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state the amount of land revenue arrears due in respect of the villages wholly or to a considerable extent injuriously affected by the recent Kistna floods which are still unrecovered and shown as recoverable?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to ascertain whether the Collector considers that the said arrears or any great portion thereof is recoverable?

(*e*) Will the Government be pleased to consider whether the tracts of land affected by the recent Kistna floods ought not to be treated with great liberality in the matter of the arrears?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—The Collector has been called on to submit a detailed report on the effects of the floods and on the measures adopted to mitigate the distress. Pending the receipt of the Collector's report no answer can be given to the Honourable Member's questions.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO *for* the Hon'ble Mr. PERRAJU PANTULU :—

383 [XXIX] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the percentage of cultivation to holdings in the Karvetnagar estate now under the management of the Court of Wards was only 59·8 at the end of fasli 1311?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to state why such a large extent of land was allowed to lie fallow?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to the administration report of the Court of Wards for fasli 1311 where the answers to his questions will be found.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO *for* the Hon'ble Mr. PERRAJU PANTULU :—

384 [XXX] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to consider whether it would not be expedient to buy in the encumbered estates of Kálahasti and Karvetnagar in the district of North Arcot and afford facilities to the ryots to become purchasers and proprietors of their occupancy holdings?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to consider whether it would not be advisable in the case of the cultivating ryots of these estates to make an experiment in the direction enunciated in Mr. Wyndham's Irish Land Bill introduced in the House of Commons on 25th March last?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—The Government do not propose to adopt either of the measures suggested.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO *for* the Hon'ble Mr. PERRAJU PANTULU :—

385, 386 and 387. *Questions.*—**385** [XXXI].—What was the number of assessees having sources of income other than salaries, pensions, profits of companies and interest on securities who were assessed—

(1) for incomes between Rs. 500 and Rs. 1,000.

(2) for incomes between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 2,000, and

(3) for incomes over Rs. 2,000,

in each of the districts of Gódávari, Kistna and Vizagapatam during the year 1902–1903, and what were the amounts of final demands from assessees of each class for that year?

386 [XXXII].—What is the number of assessees of each of the above classes in the said districts who have been assessed—

(1) for incomes between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 2,000, and

(2) for incomes over Rs. 2,000,

for the year 1903–1904, and what are the amounts of the demands of the Government from assessees of each class for the year?

387 [XXXIII].—Will the Government be pleased to state how many persons having sources of income other than salaries, pensions, profits of companies and interest on securities, who had not been assessed at all or were assessed for incomes under Rs. 1,000 in the year 1902–1903, have now been assessed for income-tax for the year 1903–1904 in the districts of Gódávari, Kistna and Vizagapatam?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

385 } **386** } **387** } *Answer.*—The Government are not in possession of the detailed information asked for.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO *for* the Hon'ble Mr. PERRAJU PANTULU :—

388 [XXXIV] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state—

(1) How many dacoities took place in the districts of North Arcot and Chingleput since April 1902;

(2) How many of them were detected and prosecuted;

(3) How many were convicted; and

(4) How many were acquitted?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state what the repetition of crime is due to in these two districts?

(*c*) Is it true that the 524 villages of Madurántakam taluk in the Chingleput district are under the charge of one police inspector with a force of less than 100 constables?

(*d*) Do the Government consider it not necessary to increase the police force in North Arcot and Chingleput districts?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) Sixty-seven dacoities have occurred in North Arcot district since April 1902; prosecutions have been instituted in 37 cases; in 12 of these cases the accused were convicted, and in 15 cases the accused were acquitted.

In Chingleput district 35 dacoities have occurred since the same date. In 16 cases prosecutions have been instituted, the accused were convicted in 4 cases and acquitted in 11 cases; one case was withdrawn.

(*b*) The prevalence of crime was due partly to the inability of the local police to deal with the numerous gangs who commit dacoities and partly to the difficulty in obtaining the satisfactory evidence of identification of the dacoits in each case. A special force of police has been formed in Chingleput district for dealing with the increase of crime.

(*c*) The Madurántakam taluk and part of the Conjeeveram taluk form the two police divisions of Madurántakam and Uttramerur. The former contains 466 villages and the police strength there is 7 head constables and 54 constables with 1 inspector; the latter contains 195 villages with a force of 1 inspector, 3 head constables and 23 constables.

(*d*) The question of increasing the police force will be considered after the receipt of the orders of the Government of India on the report of the Police Commission. Some policemen from other districts have been transferred for duty in Chingleput district.

The Hon'ble Mr. VASUDEVA AIYANGAR :—

389 [XXXV] *Question*.—In view of the fact that the bulk of the population of the presidency consists of agriculturists, will the Government be pleased to bestow increased attention on the spread of agricultural education on an elaborate scale either by strengthening the institution at Saidapet or, if this locality is found uncongenial for experimental purposes, by establishing one or two institutions of the kind well manned by experts from Europe for making original researches and for giving practical instructions on agricultural matters in well selected localities of the presidency?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The subject of the extension of agricultural instruction receives the constant attention of the Government. The existing institution at Saidapet appears to be at present sufficient for the numbers who desire to avail themselves of higher instruction in agriculture. Proposals are under consideration for strengthening the staff at Saidapet and the Agricultural department of the Board of Revenue by the appointment of additional experts. A deputy director of land records has also recently been appointed who will set free the deputy director (Mr. Benson) for the fuller consideration of agricultural problems.

The Hon'ble Mr. VASUDEVA AIYANGAR :—

390 [XXXVI] *Question*.—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to take steps to appoint trained men, with special aptitude for agricultural industry, to visit the villages of the presidency and discuss with the ryots improved methods of cultivation; and to enable the villagers to profit by such discussion?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the result of the work done in the experimental farms is unknown to the masses?; if so, will the Government be pleased to have the results published from time to time in pamphlet form and distributed broadcast to the ryots?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government will carefully consider the Honourable Member's suggestion.

(*b*) Half-yearly reports of the progress of the work done in the experimental farms are published: and orders have been issued that any useful information acquired on the farms should be published in the village sheets of the District Gazettes. The Government will also consider whether the results obtained and the methods employed cannot be personally explained on the spot to ryots wishing to obtain information in regard to any subject.

The Hon'ble Mr. Vasudeva Aiyangar :—

391 [XXXVII] *Question*.—(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the article on "Agricultural Education" in the August number of the *Indian Review* by Mr. A. Chatterton?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to take measures for the dissemination of agricultural knowledge to the ryots on the lines suggested by the writer of the above article, *i.e.*, by establishing schools with small experimental farms attached to them at or near the head-quarters of the taluks?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to consider the usefulness of introducing agriculture as one of the compulsory subjects in primary schools?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The matter is under consideration.

(*c*) The suggestion will be considered along with the question of revising the curricula for primary schools which will shortly come before the Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. Vasudeva Aiyangar :—

392 [XXXVIII] *Question*.—(*a*) Is it a fact that—

(1) the sugarcane cultivation has further gone down this year, and

(2) the Government Botanist's investigation of the industry has not as yet been attended with satisfactory results?; if so, will the Government be pleased to state if they propose to adopt any remedial measures to save the industry from further deterioration?

(*b*) Are the Government aware that there is a growing demand for cotton here and elsewhere, and that the ryots are exhibiting signs of abandoning its cultivation for some reason or other?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they propose to take any steps to encourage the ryots to have greater recourse to the cultivation of this product?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—(*a*) The forecast report issued by the Agricultural department in August last shows there has been a slight fall in the area under sugarcane cultivation as compared with the past year. The decline is attributed to depression in prices, and to the heavy rain that fell in many parts of the presidency during the year.

The sugarcane nursery at Samalkot is still in its infancy, and it has been found impossible to distribute canes at present owing to the appearance of disease in some of those introduced from Poona. It is hoped that the Government Botanist will be able to suggest remedial measures when the experiments at Samalkot have been more fully developed.

(*b*) & (*c*) The reports of the Statistical department of the Government of India show that there has been an increase in the area sown with cotton in this presidency during the current year.

The Hon'ble Mr. Vasudeva Aiyangar :—

393 [XXXIX] *Question.*—(*a*) Are the Government aware of the hardships to which the ryots are subjected, consequent upon the growing tendency of some of the Jamabandi officers to levy penal charges at enormous rates for encroachments on poramboke lands?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to alleviate such severity by reiterating the principles contained in G.O., No. 409, dated 28th June 1899, on a more elaborate scale and strictly enjoining on the Jamabandi officers the necessity of abstaining from levying penal fees except in cases where the ryots obstinately disobey written notices served on them and where the inclusion of encroached portions in the ryots' pattas would be greatly detrimental to the communal interests or to those of the Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—The Government are of opinion that the instructions already from time to time issued are quite sufficient to prevent any undue severity in the working of rules which are very necessary to prevent encroachments on lands devoted to public or communal use.

The Hon'ble Mr. Vasudeva Aiyangar :—

394 [XL] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased—

(i) to state if they contemplate a general increase of water-rate throughout the presidency, and, if so, to what extent?

(ii) to limit the powers of Jamabandi officers in the levy of prohibitory assessments for water taken without permission in those cases where it does not interfere with the cultivation of wet acreage under a particular source of irrigation?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—(i) The matter is under the consideration of the Government.

(ii) Whether the taking of water does or does not interfere with cultivation of the wet ayacut under a particular source is necessarily a question of fact in each case. It does not seem necessary or expedient therefore to limit the powers of the Jamabandi officer in regard to the imposition of water-rate. There is always an appeal to the Board in case of dissatisfaction with the decision come to by the Jamabandi officer.

The Hon'ble Mr. Vasudeva Aiyangar :—

395 [XLI] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the amount of extra cost involved in creating a special staff for the preparation and proper maintenance of land records, and also if this establishment is to be permanent or to be temporary till the special work is over?

(*b*) Whether the newly-created district staffs, *i.e.*, tahsildars and additional revenue inspectors, will go into the question of splitting joint pattas in the names of the enjoyers and will rectify the errors, if any, of the Survey department, resulting in excesses and deficiencies in individual holdings?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—The scheme referred to is still under consideration and in consequence the information desired cannot be given.

The Hon'ble Mr. VASUDEVA AIYANGAR :—

396 [XLII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to appoint a special officer to enquire into the working of the new settlement introduced into several districts and to ascertain if any inequalities or errors have crept in causing hardship to the ryots?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—The Government do not consider that there is any necessity for the adoption of the course proposed.

The Hon'ble Mr. VASUDEVA AIYANGAR :—

397 [XLIII] *Question.*—(*a*) In view of the fact that drainage system in Tanjore and Trichinopoly districts is very defective, and is causing great damage to the lands under cultivation in some of the villages, will the Government be pleased—

(1) to order a special investigation of the question and the gradual rectification of the defects; and

(2) to state the amount sanctioned for this year and the amount actually spent till now towards minor repairs, such as silt clearance, etc., of the irrigation works in the above districts?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to consider favourably my remarks at the last budget meeting in connection with the difficulties consequent upon the double supervision over the irrigation channels of the Trichinopoly district and to direct that the responsibility of keeping these minor works in good order should rest with the Revenue authorities?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) The question of improving the drainage of the Cauvery delta in the Tanjore district has already been investigated and estimates for the works considered necessary have been prepared. As the entire scheme costs Rs. 23½ lakhs, it is proposed to carry it out by sections in the order of urgency. During the current year it is proposed to take up the improvements of the Palavar and Harichandranadi, the estimates of which have recently been sanctioned by the Government of India. There is an allotment of Rs. 96,000 for this work for the current year.

As regards the alleged defective drainage in the Trichinopoly district, no information is available, but inquiry will be made.

No specific grants are made by Government for silt clearance, but lump allotments are made annually for the "Maintenance and Repairs" of irrigation works. The amounts spent on such maintenance and repairs in the Tanjore and Trichinopoly districts during the ten years ending 1901–1902 are Rs. 19,40,117 and Rs. 10,45,657, respectively. The grant for the current year for the Tanjore district is Rs. 1,45,000 and that for the Trichinopoly district Rs. 66,814.

(*b*) The question of control is one which receives the constant consideration of the authorities and the attention of those of Trichinopoly will be drawn to the Honourable Member's remarks.

The Hon'ble Mr. VASUDEVA AIYANGAR :—

398 [XLIV] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of instructing the Collectors to arrange annual interviews with the representative ryots of the districts at the beginning of every year, in which other district officers concerned may be asked to be present and with them discuss the agricultural and irrigation conditions of the district?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—The Government do not consider such instruction necessary.

The Hon'ble Mr. VASUDEVA AIYANGAR :—

399 [XLV] *Question.*—(*a*) Have the Government made enquiries whether the benefits, consequent upon the reduction of salt tax and the raising of the taxable minimum of income-tax, have reached the persons for whom they are intended and whether the traders on the one hand and the Revenue officers on the other hand have not been counteracting the beneficent intentions of the Government ?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to publish the results of such enquiries ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—In regard to income-tax no information will be available until the final results of the assessments for the current year under the Income-tax Act, as amended by the Income-tax Amendment Act, 1903, are known.

The effect of the reduction in the salt tax is being watched ; but the Government are not prepared to make any statement on the subject at present.

The Hon'ble Mr. VASUDEVA AIYANGAR :—

400 [XLVI] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased—

(*a*) To state if a scheme for the redistribution of districts and the revenue sub-divisions and taluks in the presidency is to be brought into force shortly ?

(*b*) If so, to publish the details of the scheme before they take effect to enable inhabitants of the several districts affected by the scheme to submit their views ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government have had the matter under their consideration for some time past, but no scheme has as yet been sanctioned.

(*b*) Local officers have been consulted, but the Government are not prepared to publish the details of the proposals for the purpose indicated.

The Hon'ble Mr. VASUDEVA AIYANGAR :—

401 [XLVII] *Question.*—As regards the proposed establishment of an agricultural farm at Coimbatore, will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of locating it at Karúr in the same district as this place being a central one would enable the ryots of Trichinopoly and Tanjore to be benefited by it ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member's suggestion will be referred to the Board of Revenue for consideration.

The Hon'ble Mr. VASUDEVA AIYANGAR :—

402 [XLVIII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to consider favourably the prayer of the undergraduates (First-in-Arts men) residing in municipal towns of the presidency to be included as voters in the municipal elections ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The Government have not yet examined the petitions referred to, and are therefore unable to say what their decision will be.

13. MEETING OF THE 18TH DECEMBER 1903.

The Hon'ble Mr. GOVINDARAGHAVA AIYAR :—

403 [I] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state with respect to the recent floods in the Pálár—

(1) The number of lives lost?

(2) The number of cattle lost?

(3) The number of houses that collapsed or became uninhabitable?

(4) The extent of land that has become uncultivable and of land that has become silted up with sand but could be reclaimed?

(5) The value of the crops that were lost or damaged?

(6) The extent of damage done to property?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—Briefly the facts are these, so far as at present ascertained. In North Arcot 85 lives were lost, and in Salem 148, 125 in Vániyambádi town, and the rest in the neighbouring villages. Three thousand and seventy-one cattle were washed away in North Arcot, but it is hoped that many have been subsequently recovered. In Salem 79 head of cattle were lost in the villages while the loss in Vániyambádi town is described as heavy. The number of houses rendered uninhabitable in Salem was 1,531, out of which 1,210 were in Vániyambádi. In North Arcot 123 hamlets were either damaged or destroyed. In Salem a "considerable extent of cultivable land" was washed away and vast quantities of sand were deposited on the lands on both sides of the river near Vániyambádi, but the exact extent rendered uncultivable is not known. In North Arcot no land has been reported to have been rendered uncultivable, but 3,763 acres of crop were damaged, of which "a fair proportion" was expected to recover. It will not be possible to estimate the value of the crops that were lost or damaged until a detailed inspection has been made by the local officers. The value of house property destroyed in Vániyambádi is roughly estimated at Rs. 1,73,200; and that of movable property at Rs. 41,500. Further details have not been reported for either district. The Honourable Member will find other information in regard to the damage that was done in G.O., No. 1205, Revenue, dated 27th November 1903, and in G.O., No. 1284, Revenue, dated 12th December 1903, of which the former has been, and the latter will now be, placed on the Editors' Table.

The Hon'ble Mr. GOVINDARAGHAVA AIYAR :—

404 [II] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state whether the unusual heaviness of the floods in the Pálár was altogether due to unforeseen and unpreventible causes either in the British or Mysore territories and if the causes were to any extent such as could have been foreseen and prevented, why they were not prevented?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The heavy floods in the Pálár were due to causes which could neither have been foreseen nor guarded against as far as British territory is concerned. The Government are not in a position to give the information asked for with respect to Mysore.

The Hon'ble Mr. GOVINDARAGHAVA AIYAR :—

405 [III] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*). How they propose to relieve the sufferers by the recent floods in Salem and North Arcot districts and particularly those whose lands have become uncultivable?

(*b*) The extent of the money, if any, that has been placed at the disposal of the local authorities for the relief of the sufferers and how it has so far been utilised?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Collectors of the two districts have been directed to give relief from Government funds to the extent necessary to prevent loss of life and to make free grants of timber in deserving cases for the restoration of houses.

(*b*) A grant of Rs. 5,000 for the purchase of land for house-sites has been placed at the disposal of the Collector of Salem, and the Vániyambádi Municipal Council has been given Rs. 15,000 for present necessities. Neither of the Collectors has yet submitted detailed proposals for the allotment of State funds for relief. The Government are glad to observe that private charity has largely availed to meet the more pressing needs.

As regards relief to those whose lands have become uncultivable, the Honourable Member will receive further information in reply to his next question.*

* 406 *infra*.

The Hon'ble Mr. GOVINDARAGHAVA AIYAR :—

406 [IV] *Question*.—Will the Government be pleased to favourably consider the desirability of —

(*a*) Postponing the payment of assessment for lands other than lands that have become uncultivable or have been silted up with sand in the holding of pattadars whose houses have fallen or whose properties have become damaged ?

(*b*) Grant of loans carrying no interest and payable within long periods to pattadars not paying over Rs. 30 a year whose lands have become silted up with sand and have become unfit for cultivation for the reclamation of such lands ?

(*c*) Grant of loans carrying no interest and payable within long periods and free grant of timber and forest materials for building houses to those whose houses have fallen down or have become so damaged as to be unfit for residence and who are not pattadars paying over Rs. 30 a year to Government or whose yearly income does not exceed Rs. 100 ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member presumably refers to the calamities caused by the recent floods in the Pálár and other rivers. While deeply sympathising with the sufferers by those floods, the Government regret that they are unable to issue any general instructions such as appear to be contemplated in the question. Each case must be dealt with on its merits. Collectors of districts and the Board of Revenue already possess powers within certain limits of suspending collection of assessment, of granting loans under the Land Improvement Loans Act and Agriculturists' Loans Act at low rates of interest and of making free grants of timber and other forest produce. In deserving cases, on recommendation received, the Government will be glad to consider the desirability of granting such further concessions as the circumstances of each case may call for.

The Hon'ble Mr. GOVINDARAGHAVA AIYAR :—

407 [V] *Question*.—Will the Government be pleased to give the additional information required in reply to the question No. XXII † put for the Hon'ble Mr. Ratnasabhapati Pillai in the meeting of the Legislative Council on the 20th November 1903 ?

† 376 *supra*, p. 137.

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—The Government are still awaiting the detailed report called for from the Collector and regret that they are therefore unable to give the additional information asked for by the Honourable Member, which, however, will be published as soon as received.

The Hon'ble Mr. GOVINDARAGHAVA AIYAR :—

408 [VI] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is true that a large extent of wet land with standing crops thereon adjoining the south bank of the Coleroon in the Trichinopoly district became submerged by the floods of that river, and if so what is the extent of such land and of the damage done and whether such submersion was not due to preventible causes, and will the Government be pleased to make an enquiry upon the subject?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—It has been ascertained that in Trichinopoly taluk 4,608 acres of land were submerged, but the damage done on the major portion of this extent was slight Crops were totally destroyed on only 375 acres, of which it will be possible to cultivate 254 acres again at once. The remaining 121 acres were covered with sand and it is said that cultivation will not be possible until the sand has been removed. No damage has been reported in the other taluks. There is no reason to suppose that the floods were due to preventible causes, and the Government see no reason to make any further special enquiry.

The Hon'ble Mr. GOVINDARAGHAVA AIYAR :—

409 [VII] *Question.*—Are the Government aware that there is considerable public feeling about the disposal of the old taluk office building in Tindivanam in South Arcot district where the District Munsif's Court was located and will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) Whether the said building is any longer required for Government purposes?

(*b*) Whether if it is not so required it is available for sale?

(*c*) Whether if it is available for sale the Government will be pleased to sell it by public auction? and

(*d*) If the Government are not pleased to sell it by public auction, why not?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—The question of the disposal of the old taluk office has not yet been finally settled.

The Hon'ble Mr. GOVINDARAGHAVA AIYAR :—

410 [VIII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state whether the competitive examination for the Salt, Abkári and Customs department has been abolished, and if not why it has not been held for some years?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—The examination has not been formally abolished; but none has been held in recent years, as the system has not been found to be a success.

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAKASA MUDALIYAR :—

411 [IX] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that about six months ago the Superintendent of Civil Jail, Madras, in violation of the distinct provision in the Jail Manual in that respect disallowed food brought from outside the jail for the civil debtors imprisoned therein by their relatives and friends?

(*b*) Whether it is a fact that the imprisoned civil debtors were compelled to cook their own meals in the jail premises?

(*c*) Whether it is a fact that on representations made to visitors, official and non-official, by the debtors, the Inspector-General of Prisons cancelled the Superintendent's order and restored the old state of things?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The answer to the whole question is in the affirmative.

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAKASA MUDALIYAR :—

412 [X] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether notwithstanding the order of the Inspector-General, the Superintendent has since disallowed food to a Muhammadan debtor imprisoned in the jail at the instance of the South Indian Export Company?

(*b*) Is it the case that this debtor is now an in-patient in the jail hospital as a result of the ill-health brought on by the stoppage of outside food?

The Hon'ble Mr Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) The Medical officer, Civil Jail, does not attribute the Muhammadan debtor's recent illness to the stoppage of outside food.

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAKASA MUDALIYAR :—

413 [XI] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that on or about the 27th ultimo the Superintendent with a few European warders forcibly stripped the debtors of their clothing for the purpose of search without assigning them any reason for doing so?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the European warders were made to examine the food brought to the debtors from outside by freely using their hands without the slightest regard for caste scruples?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The Inspector-General of Prisons reports that the search was conducted in the usual way and that the examination of the food was made with due regard to caste scruples.

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAKASA MUDALIYAR :—

414 [XII] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is true that for the last few days food from outside has been disallowed in the case of all debtors except the Europeans and Eurasians and such debtors were compelled to cook their own meals?

(*b*) Whether it is a fact that the debtors who pleaded inability to cook their meals were locked up in the cell and were allowed penal diet of ragi conjee?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The answer to this question is in the affirmative.

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAKASA MUDALIYAR :—

415 [XIII] *Question.*—Whether it is a fact that the Superintendent has curtailed the visiting hours allowed to the debtors in spite of Standing Orders?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The answer to this question is in the affirmative.

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAKASA MUDALIYAR :—

* 411–415 *supra.*

416 [XIV] *Question.*—If the answers to the preceding questions * be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state what notice they have already taken of the conduct of the officer concerned?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The Government deplore the irregularities which have occurred and which had already come under their notice. They have decided on the removal of the officer concerned from Madras. His conduct will receive their further consideration.

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAKASA MUDALIYAR :—

417 [XV] *Question.*—Adverting to the Hon'ble Mr. Hammick's answer to question No. XX * at the last meeting of the Council, will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the report therein referred to as having been called for? * 374 supra, p. 136.

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The report referred to cannot be laid on the table. With reference to the question † asked at the Council on the 20th November, it is a fact that a convict was awarded thirty stripes as a punishment for the introduction of a considerable quantity of tobacco into the penitentiary. This was a very serious jail offence, as the introduction of prohibited articles into the jail was at the time frequent in spite of warnings on the subject. The flogging was administered by only one warder. The man was under treatment in the hospital in consequence. † Ibid.

14. MEETING OF THE 19TH JANUARY 1904.

The Hon'ble Mr. GOVINDARAGHAVA AIYAR :—

418 [I] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state whether the rent law is to be amended, and, if so, when the Bill to amend it is to be introduced?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—Legislation on the subject of the rent law in this presidency is under discussion and the Government are at present unable to make any statement in regard to the matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. GOVINDARAGHAVA AIYAR :—

419 [II] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state whether the system of establishing model primary schools has been abandoned, and, if so, why?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The primary department of the practising school of the Teachers' College, Saidapet, is a model primary school, and it is proposed to provide for that school a Female Superintendent trained in the latest Kindergarten methods. The establishment of model primary schools in other places is being considered.

The Hon'ble Mr. GOVINDARAGHAVA AIYAR :—

420 [III] *Question.*—(*a*) Are the Government aware that the late Chairman of the Municipality of Bezwada is dead?

(*b*) Now that a vacancy has arisen will the Government be pleased to extend to that municipality the privilege of electing its own Chairman?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government have not as yet received any intimation on the subject.

(*b*) The Government are not prepared at present to adopt the Honourable Member's suggestion.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

421 [IV] *Question.*—Has the attention of the Government been called to an article under the heading of "A complaint against the South Indian Railway" by C. V. Visvanatha Sastri published in the *Madras Mail* of the 8th January 1904, with reference to the treatment given to third-class passengers?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The attention of the Government has now been called to the article in question.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

422 [V] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to take steps to prevent the occurrence of such treatment in future?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—It would be better that complaints about details of railway management should be addressed to the Traffic Manager of the railway rather than to Government.

On the occasion referred to, the line had been breached in several places and traffic could only be carried on with great difficulty by using any sort of vehicle that happened to be available. It must be remembered that travellers all the world over have occasionally to submit to inconvenience and to departure from the ordinary conditions of travelling when unavoidable accidents occur. The Government do and will take steps to prevent overcrowding and the use of goods wagons for passengers under ordinary circumstances, but in times of serious emergency traffic can only be carried on at all by the employment of any means that may be practicable.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

423 [VI] *Question.*—Is it the case that by reason of a provision in the Civil Rules of Practice revised by the High Court in 1902 which makes it imperative that certificates of encumbrance from registration offices should be produced whenever applications are made to civil courts for the sale of immovable property, the number of applications for searches in the registration offices has considerably increased ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The answer is in the affirmative.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

424 [VII] *Question.*—Is it also the case that Registrars and Sub-Registrars with the number of clerks at present existing in their offices often find it difficult to do their ordinary work connected with the registration of documents and deliver the encumbrance certificates to the applicants in time, and that consequently delay and inconvenience are often caused to litigants in civil courts ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The Government understand that the work has increased and that additional establishments will be required.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

425 [VIII] *Question.*—With a view to prevent delay and inconvenience and having regard to the fact that the total receipts of the Registration department exceed the total expenditure by more than four lakhs of rupees a year, will the Government be pleased to entertain additional hands in registration offices in the presidency ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The question of strengthening the establishments is under consideration.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

426 [IX] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state by what percentage the existing land assessment in the South Canara district is enhanced under the present settlement in that district ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to G.O., No. 757, Revenue, dated 25th August 1902, which has been placed on the Editors' Table.

According to the scheme sanctioned for the four taluks of Kasaragod, Mangalore, Udipi and Coondapoor it was estimated that there would be an increase of revenue from Rs. 12,32,579 to Rs. 20,60,517 or by 67 *per cent.*

In Uppinangadi taluk it is calculated that there will be an increase of revenue from Rs. 1,65,955 to Rs. 2,95,205 or by 78 *per cent.* which would raise the total increase for the whole district to 68½ *per cent.*, but no scheme has yet been sanctioned for this taluk.

The above figures give only estimated results: actuals will not be known till the settlement has been completely introduced.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

427 [X] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be so good as to state whether the report promised in reply to question No. VI * at the meeting of the Council held on the 2nd of June 1902 has been called for and if it has been received to lay it on the table ?

* 244 supra, p. 86.

(*b*) Will they be pleased to state whether any notice has been taken of the public servants referred to therein and if so what action has been taken ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—A report has been received but it cannot be placed on the table. The number of adjournments in the case was fourteen, of which the magistrate in question was responsible for nine. He was reverted for unsatisfactory work in connection with this case and other matters.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

428 [XI] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state whether the reports promised in reply to questions Nos. XXXII and XXXV † put at the meeting of the Council, dated 15th December 1902, have been called for and if they have been received to lay them on the table ?

† 297 and 300 supra, pp. 110 and 111 respectively.

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The reports promised were called for and have been received but they cannot be laid on the table.

The following is the answer to question No. XXXII ‡ :—

‡ 297 supra p. 110.

(*a*) It is a fact that the Police of Solavandan station in the district of Madura charged nine Pallas of Mannadimangalam village in Madura taluk with the murder of a schoolmaster.

(*b*) One of the Pallas made a confessional statement. The Police officers alleged to have forced him to make it were charged before the Assistant Magistrate, Madura, but were discharged as the magistrate found that the case was false and concocted.

(*c*) It is not true that flesh and bones were produced by the police as belonging to the body of the deceased, but in the search for the murdered man portions of a corpse were found and were examined by a medical officer to ascertain whether they could be the body of the supposed deceased. It was decided from the length of the hair that they could not.

(*d*) It is true that, while the preliminary enquiry was going on before the magistrate, the schoolmaster alleged to have been murdered appeared before the magistrate from Negapatam, and that the Pallas were in consequence discharged.

The answer to question No. XXXV § is as follows :—

§ 300 supra, p. 111.

		RS.
(*a*)	Demand for fasli 1311	3,92,567
	Collection	3,83,578

(*b*) There was an excess collection during the fasli of Rs. 10,670. The reasons for the excess were—

(i) that the collections were made on the rough pattas ;

(ii) that tenants in some cases made voluntary payments for lands in their possession before the result of collections in other taluks from absentee landlords was known to the adhigaris who received such payments.

(*c*) The excess collections were due only in part to their having been made on the rough pattas, as already explained.

(*d*) It is presumed that excess collections have by now either been refunded or credited to the parties concerned.

(*e*) There were 322 distraints of movable property in fasli 1311

(*f*) The amount realized as fees was Rs. 108–2–3.

(*g*) There were no cases of simultaneous process against pattadar and occupant.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

429 [XII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that 63 tanks which were supplying the town of Trichinopoly with good drinking-water have, since the introduction of the water project, been neglected and have become reservoirs of accumulated filth ?

(*b*) Is it also true that the feeding channels to some of the tanks have been converted into sewage tunnels ?

(*c*) Was the recent prevalence of severe cholera in Trichinopoly the result of such tanks being used by the public, the pipe service having suddenly failed ?

(*d*) If so, will the Government be pleased to issue orders for the permanent maintenance of all tanks, or of as many of them as may be found possible in a good and sanitary condition, free from the contamination of sewage or drainage filth ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The Government have no definite information on the subject of the Honourable Member's question. The District Municipalities Act places all public tanks under the control of the Municipal Council, and empowers the Council to take action also in regard to private tanks. It appears that the Municipality maintains an establishment of 25 watchmen for the conservancy and protection of such tanks. It is the fact that last November, in consequence of the floods in the Cauvery, the service pipe of the town supply gave way : and the question of the measures to be taken to prevent the recurrence of such accidents is now under the consideration of the Public Works department. It is hoped that the water-supply will be made secure before next flood season.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

430 [XIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it the case that Periyár water was not available for agricultural operations in some parts of the district of Madura in localities fed solely by the channel until the 28th June 1903 and again for about ten days in November 1903, and that water was actually supplied only for less than eight months ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to order that double-crop assessment be not levied wherever the second crop was not raised for want of water ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative.

(*b*) The Government are not prepared to issue such an order as the Honourable Member asks for. If there has been any failure of supply remissions will be given under the ordinary rules.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

431 [XIV] *Question.*—(*a*) Have the Government obtained any information regarding the number of the people—men, women and children—who have been rendered homeless by the recent rains and floods in Madras, and have any, and, if so, what, steps been taken to afford suitable relief to them?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to trace out the exact causes for such large submergence of the town under water and take the steps necessary to protect the city against future danger by more effective drainage ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government have received no official information on the subject.

(*b*) The cause of the recent floods was the very heavy and abnormal rainfall of the 30th and 31st December, which occurred at a time when previous exceptionally heavy rains had already filled all tanks and reservoirs.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

432 [XV] *Question.*—(*a*) Are the Government aware that the Johnston of Carnsalloch scholarship has had to be reduced from Rs. 20 to Rs. 10 a month in consequence of the rents of Tamkam bungalow in Madura town being appropriated towards some repairs and large improvements to the building?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to take such measures as will effectively prevent the depreciation of the scholarship from its original value?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The Government have no official information regarding the reduction of the scholarship, the amount of which is determined by the Senate of the University in accordance with the funds available. The Government are bound to act in accordance with the provisions of the trust deed under which the funds available for the scholarship fluctuate. They are, of course, anxious that it should be maintained at as high a value as possible.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

433 [XVI] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the paragraph in the *Madras Mail* of the 5th January 1904 regarding the inconveniences to which Mr. Lal Mohan Ghose and his two daughters were put in the dead of night at Kavali station by the reserved first-class carriage in which they travelled being ordered to be detached by Mr. Duncan, the Railway Engineer, and to their being made to vacate the carriage?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to direct a thorough investigation of the matter and prevent the recurrence of such occurrences in future?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—No representation has been made to Government with regard to the incident mentioned by the Honourable Member. The matter as described by the Honourable Member does not appear to concern Government in any way. It seems to be a complaint of the kind which is ordinarily addressed to the railway authorities and not one demanding investigation by Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

434 [XVII] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the complaint against the South Indian Railway by one C. V. Visvanatha Sastri in the *Madras Mail* of the 8th instant regarding the inconveniences caused to third-class passengers by their being made to travel in the carriages marked "P. 8 mules or 8 horses" without lights?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to direct the prohibition of carrying human beings in wagons intended for animals?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) The attention of the Government has now been called to the paragraph in question.

(*b*) The Government recognise that it is ordinarily undesirable to use goods wagons for passengers but also recognise that it is impossible for a railway to keep a sufficient number of carriages to meet very exceptional demands. Rules have therefore been laid down as to the space to be allotted to each passenger when goods wagons are used for passenger traffic as they not unfrequently are in other countries.

On the occasion referred to, the railway had been breached in several places by the recent heavy floods and the traffic could only be carried on at all by using any kind of vehicle that might be available. The alternative lay between using goods wagons or refusing to carry many of the passengers who desired to travel.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

435 [XVIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the Muhammadans of Cuddapah put forward the right that for 12 days during the celebration of the Muharram the other religionists ought not to perform their rites or festivals with music even in their own houses?

(*b*) Is it also a fact that the District Magistrate of Cuddapah has upheld such a claim of the Muhammadans and has refused to permit the Hindus from celebrating the Sri Rama Navami festival with music in their own houses?

(*c*) Have the Hindus presented any petition to the Government against the orders of the District Magistrate and will the Government be pleased to pass early orders thereon?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The Muhammadans have put forward the claim but the District Magistrate has not yet passed any orders as regards the coming Muharram, and it therefore follows that no petition from the Hindus against such order can have been presented.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

436 [XIX] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the settlement grievances of the people of Udipi taluk in South Canara district detailed in an article of the *Hindu*, dated the 6th January 1904?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the people of Udipi have appealed to the Government against the enhancement of assessment by 67 per cent. which is the highest increase of assessment in the settled districts?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to view the case of the Udipi memorialists favourably and redress their grievances by reducing the new rates as much as may be possible and by not raising the rates beyond those of North Canara?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—The Government have recently received a memorial from some of the landholders of the Udipi taluk complaining against the new settlement and orders will be passed on the memorial in due course.

The Hon'ble Mr. VASUDEVA AIYANGAR :—

437 [XX] *Question.*—Is it a fact that departmental enquiries were made some two years ago to ascertain the economic condition of the rural population of this presidency? If so, will the Government be pleased to publish the results of such an enquiry and the conclusions arrived at by the Government as to the improvement or otherwise in the material condition of the agriculturists and the cultivating labourers?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—The results of the enquiry to which the Honourable Member refers have already been published. The Honourable Member will find them in the "Statement exhibiting the moral and material progress and condition of India during the year 1901–1902 and the nine preceding years" published by order of the House of Commons at London in 1903.

The Hon'ble Mr. VASUDEVA AIYANGAR :—

438 [XXI] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to establish seed depots in district head-quarters for selling or even distributing gratis in exceptional cases best seeds—indigenous and exotic—among the ryots to suit the requirements of the several districts?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—The Government are unable to undertake the distribution of seed on so extensive a scale as that proposed by the Honourable Member. Such distribution has, however, already been made in certain instances and will continue to be made where it can be effected with advantage by Government agency.

The Hon'ble Mr. VASUDEVA AIYANGAR :—

439 [XXII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to organize Village Courts according to the provisions of Act I of 1889 in some suitable localities and make it obligatory on the parties to have small money suits tried by them with a view to lighten the heavy work of the civil courts?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—Village Courts now exist throughout the great part of the presidency. The Government do not consider it advisable to make it obligatory on persons to file their suits in these courts rather than in the regular courts to which the Code of Civil Procedure is applicable.

The Hon'ble Mr. VASUDEVA AIYANGAR :—

* 408 supra, p. 149.

440 [XXIII] *Question.*—With reference to the reply given to question No. VI * put by the Hon'ble Mr. Govindaraghava Aiyar at the last meeting of the Council, will the Government be pleased to state whether the damages to the lands in question by the recent floods are due to the following causes :—

(1) The non-repair of the right bank of the Coleroon in the Srirangam Island which was completely destroyed during the floods of 1896?

(2) The non-existence of mud banks to prevent the flow of land floods from the adjoining uplands and that of the surplus water of the drainage channels into the irrigated lands of the Trichinopoly and Kulittalai taluks?

If so, whether they will issue instructions to remedy these defects before the next cultivation season?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The answer is in the negative. Since the floods of 1896, large sums have been spent on raising and strengthening the Coleroon right (or south) bank in the Trichinopoly district. In 1897 an estimate of Rs. 5,000 for raising and strengthening the bank from its junction with the Cauvery left bank at Srirangam Nattu Voikkal head sluice to the 8th milestone near Srirangam was sanctioned and work carried out. The portion of the bank from 11th to 11¼th mile was repaired at a cost of Rs. 2,710 in July 1900. This portion of the bank was also protected with groynes and modassil work, but it was breached in spite of these precautions by the flood of August 1900. These breaches were subsequently closed. As it was considered that there was no use in closing the breaches without strong protective works to prevent the river setting against the bank, two stone groynes were constructed in 1902 at a total cost of Rs. 11,405. In August 1903 the bank below the Trichinopoly bridge was again breached and while some of these breaches were being closed the floods of November came down and swept away the bank at weak places. As the bank below the 8th mile is both low and weak, an estimate for strengthening it has been prepared and work will be put in hand as soon as possible. The non-existence of the banks referred to by the Honourable Member could not have caused the damages to the land.

The Hon'ble Mr. VASUDEVA AIYANGAR :—

441 [XXIV] *Question.*—In view of the fact that the districts of Trichinopoly and Tanjore are contiguously situated having common interests especially as regards the Cauvery irrigation, will the Government be pleased to place the two districts

under the control of one Superintending Engineer so that the questions affecting the irrigation of these two districts may be disposed of more satisfactorily and with greater expedition?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—There is no advantage to be gained by placing the two districts under one Superintending Engineer, but, in view of the alterations recently made to the Coleroon Upper Anicut, it may be necessary to place the whole of the Cauvery channels taking off at the anicut under one Executive Engineer, viz., the Executive Engineer, Tanjore division. The matter is one which is under consideration.

The Hon'ble Mr. VASUDEVA AIYANGAR :—

442 [XXV] *Question.*—(*a*) In how many districts has the special cess for the construction of district railways been introduced?

(*b*) What are the railway projects that have been taken up by the several District Boards?

(*c*) Do the Government contemplate helping these bodies by the grant of loans for the immediate starting of such projects, and if so, to what extent?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) The special cess is levied in six districts.

(*b*) The following railway projects are under consideration :—

Districts.	Railway projects.
Kistna	Bezwada-Masulipatam. Guntúr-Repalle. Phirangipuram-Gurazala.
Kurnool	Dhone-Kurnool.
Coimbatore	Podanur-Palni.
Trichinopoly	Trichinopoly-Perambalur, Musiri or Lalgudi.
Salem	Salem-Atur.
Tinnevelly	Tinnevelly-Tiruchendur.

(*c*) The matter will be considered when applications are received from the District Boards.

The Hon'ble Mr. VASUDEVA AIYANGAR :—

443 [XXVI] *Question.*—Is it proposed to take up the Coleroon irrigation extension scheme in the Trichinopoly district and the Mulliyar extension scheme in the Tanjore district during the next year?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—It is presumed that the first scheme referred to by the Honourable Member is the Nandyar project. The plans and estimates for this project are under consideration by the special Chief Engineer and will, it is understood, be shortly submitted to Government. The Government are therefore not in a position to state whether the project, which will require the sanction of the Secretary of State, will be taken up during the next year.

The Mulliyar extension scheme which is a part of the Cauvery project cannot be taken up during the next year, as the estimate for the project itself, amounting to Rs. 239 lakhs, has not yet come before Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. VASUDEVA AIYANGAR :—

444 [XXVII] *Question.*—Is it a fact that the mufassal municipalities are not having the benefits of inspection by either the Sanitary Commissioner or his Deputy at least once in a year, and, if so, will the Government be pleased to appoint a few assistants to the Sanitary Commissioner to enable him to carry out the work of inspection and control this branch of municipal administration, that is sanitation, more efficiently?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to G.O., No. 1280 M., dated 6th August 1895, which has been placed on the Editors' Table, under which the inspection of Municipal towns by the Sanitary Commissioner or his Deputy is required only once in two years. The Government are not at present prepared to adopt the Honourable Member's suggestion in the latter part of the question.

The Hon'ble Mr. Vasudeva Aiyangar :—

445 [XXVIII] *Question*.—(*a*) In view of the opinion of the Sanitary Commissioner that a condition of stagnation has overtaken the municipal efforts in the direction of sanitary improvements, will the Government be pleased to reconsider the question of giving free grants to such municipalities as have undertaken large works?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state to what extent the Government have undertaken to help the water-works projects of Guntúr, Tuticorin and Salem?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government have been giving free grants to municipalities in aid of sanitary schemes, whenever the state of Provincial finances has permitted.

(*b*) Grants amounting to Rs. 1,00,000 and Rs. 57,500 have been paid to the Municipal Councils of Guntúr and Tuticorin in aid of their water works, and the Government have undertaken to make a further grant of Rs. 9,000 to the former Council. The water-supply scheme for Salem is still under investigation and no help from Provincial funds has been promised.

The Hon'ble Mr. Vasudeva Aiyangar :—

446 [XXIX] *Question*.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have sanctioned a scheme for the resettlement of the district of Salem, and if so, on what principles it will have to be conducted—whether the reclassification of soils and the revaluation of grain outturns are to be gone through or whether the increase will be effected in proportion to the rise in the prices of the grains?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—The Government have sanctioned a scheme for the resettlement of five taluks of the Salem district, viz., Salem, Atur, Tiruchengódu, Námakkal and Uttangarai. Soils will not be reclassified. The existing rates will be enhanced by two annas in the rupee; and the classification of all waste lands will be lowered by one taram before the enhanced rate is applied. The enhancement has been based on a consideration of the rise in prices since the original settlement; but while the increase in the price of both paddy and dry grains since the date of settlement has been about 40 per cent., the increase in the rates of assessment will be only 12½ per cent.

For details of the resettlement the Honourable Member is referred to G.O., No. 1029, Revenue, dated 7th October 1903, which will now be placed on the Editors' Table.

15. MEETING OF THE 12TH APRIL 1904.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

447 [I] *Question.*—Is it a fact that the small cause jurisdiction over the whole of the district of North Malabar once possessed by the old Sub-Court at Tellicherry and afterwards transferred to the District Court, North Malabar, was taken away with the result that the District Munsifs in the district have had to deal with this additional work since 1902?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The District Judge of North Malabar was relieved of the small cause work of the district at the instance of the High Court. This no doubt caused some additional work to the District Munsifs. The High Court have since issued orders for a redistribution of the work among the District Munsifs of North Malabar which will, it is hoped, remove any difficulties that may have occurred.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

448 [II] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state what is the net saving from civil litigation in the district of North Malabar during the last three years?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—As the High Court does not receive any return showing the receipts and charges of each civil court separately, the Government are unable to give the information required.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

449 [III] *Question.*—Having regard to the increase in the number of pending suits and heavy congestion of work in the District Munsifs' Courts in North Malabar, will the Government be pleased to re-establish permanently a Sub-Court at Tellicherry which would give relief to both the District Judge and the District Munsifs, or at least establish an additional District Munsif's Court at Tellicherry or any other suitable place in the district with a view to relieve the work of the District Munsifs?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The High Court having only recently issued orders for the re-distribution of the District Munsifs' jurisdictions in the district of North Malabar, the Government do not think that any steps should be taken in the manner suggested by the Honourable Member.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

450 [IV] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) In how many instances were lands sold for arrears of Government revenue in the Wynaad taluk in the district of Malabar after the new settlement?

(*b*) What is the total number of acres so sold?

(*c*) In how many of these sales did the Government become purchaser for want of bidders?

(*d*) What is the total area in acres of the land so purchased by the Government?

(*e*) Whether there was any instance in which the amount of the bid was less than the revenue imposed upon the land?

(*f*) In how many instances, if any, has this happened?

(*g*) Whether there were instances, after the recent settlement, in which property once sold for arrears of Government revenue was again sold for default in paying the Government revenue committed by the new owner?

(*h*) How many such instances, if any, are there?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—In the fifteen years since the settlement of the Wynaad taluk there have been 4,383 sales of land for arrears of revenue. The area sold amounted to 30,080 acres, of which 18,030 acres were bought in by Government. The other particulars asked for by the Honourable Member are not available.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

451 [V] *Question.*—Since the land revenue has considerably increased, and seeing that the due payment of the revenue and the well-being of the people depend mainly upon the prosperity of the agricultural classes, will the Government be pleased to open an experimental farm in Malabar and employ agricultural experts to teach the cultivators improved methods of cultivation by example and precept?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—Government cannot undertake to open a farm in Malabar, where owing to the peculiarities of the climate and methods of cultivation, the usefulness of such a farm would probably be less than in any other district.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

452 [VI] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to open similar experimental farms and employ agricultural experts at convenient centres in other districts as well?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—Experimental farms are now working at Bellary, Koilpatti and Samalkot: and it is hoped that two more will soon be opened—one at Coimbatore and one in the Deccan districts. The Honourable Member is referred to G.O., No. 1324, dated 21st December 1903, which has been placed on Editors' Table.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

453 [VII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to reconsider the order passed with reference to Mr. Chatterton's scheme and establish 150 or about 100 schools on the lines suggested by him?

The Honble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—Government are not prepared at present to do more than has been sanctioned in G.O., No. 1333, dated 23rd December 1903, which has been placed on the Editors' Table. It is obviously necessary to begin by experiments in a small way before embarking on a scheme involving an initial cost of 15 lakhs and of problematical utility. Many difficulties incidental to the undertaking have still to be ascertained and overcome.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

454 [VIII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to direct that one of the five agricultural experimental stations recently sanctioned be located in the Periyár tract?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—The five stations selected after careful consideration for the conduct of the experiments are Kadayampatti, Saidapet, Hagari, Cuddalore and Manamadura. The Government are unable to sanction a station in the tract irrigated by the Periyár water; but the Manamadura station is within a very few miles of that tract, and being in a centre situation and accessible will, the Government trust, prove of much educative value to all the ryots of the Madura district.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

455 & 456 *Questions*—**455** [IX].—Is it a fact that the Government have memorial from the landholders of the Coondapoor taluk, South Canara district, with reference to the revenue settlement in course of introduction into that taluk?

456 [X].—If the Government have received such a memorial, will the Government be pleased to state what action they have taken on the memorial?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

455
456 } *Answer.*—Government have received a memorial from some of the landholders of the Coondapoor taluk. It has been referred to the Board of Revenue for report, on receipt of which orders will be passed.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

457 [XI] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state how many appeals were preferred to the Board of Revenue against the decisions of the settlement officers in connection with the new settlement in the Malabar and South Canara districts?

(*b*) How many of these appeals, if any, were rejected summarily?

(*c*) Out of those that were not rejected summarily, how many, if any, were sent for report to the settlement officers whose decisions formed the subject-matter of these appeals?

(*d*) Did the Board of Revenue dispose of these appeals only on the reports of the settlement officers who originally decided the cases or any other materials in addition to these reports?

(*e*) If there was any material in addition to the reports, will the Government be pleased to state what it was?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—Up to date 329 appeals have been received from Malabar and 1,073 from South Canara. Details are not available: but it is reported that hitherto summary rejection has been very rare. All appeals not summarily rejected were sent for report to the settlement officer in charge of the party, who, however, was not necessarily or usually the officer whose decision formed the subject-matter of appeal. The appeals were disposed of on the report of the settlement officer in charge of the party.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

458 [XII] *Question.*—Is it a fact that in many instances in Malabar and South Canara Government revenue as shown in the "rough pattas" issued to landowners in connection with the recent settlement has been actually collected from the pattadars before the issue of final pattas to them?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—It is a fact that in some instances collection was begun on the basis of the figures shown in the rough pattas. The final adjustment, if any was necessary, was made in the ordinary course at the jamabandi.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

459 [XIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the three toll-gates within a distance of eighteen miles situated on the road between the village of Kondotti and Calicut town in the district of Malabar, referred to in question No. IV * by the Hon'ble Mr. G. Srinivasa Rao on the 20th November 1903, have again been sold for the year 1904-1905? * 358 supra p. 130.

(*b*) If the toll-gates have been sold, will the Government be pleased to order the cancellation of the sales and direct that the gates may be so located as to avoid the payment of toll at more than one of them in a day?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government have no information on the subject.

(*b*) The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. The suggestion contained in the second part is still under consideration.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

460 [XIV] *Question.*—Is it a fact that the Madras Mahajana Sabha has submitted a memorial to the Government for transmission to the Secretary of State for India praying that Mr. Ramunni Menon, who is now acting as Professor of Biology in the Presidency College, be confirmed as the permanent Professor ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The answer to this question is in the affirmative.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

461 [XV] *Question.*—If such a memorial has been submitted, will the Government be pleased to make favourable recommendations to the Secretary of State for India on the subject-matter of the memorial ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The Government are not at liberty to answer this question.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

462 & 463 *Questions.*—**462** [XVI].—Will the Government be pleased to state what was the total amount of the income-tax collected in this presidency during the official year 1902–1903 ?

463 [XVII].—Out of the total amount collected in the year 1902–1903, what was the amount of the income-tax assessed on incomes below Rs. 1,000 ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

462 }
463 } *Answer.*—The total collections of income-tax during the year 1902–1903 amounted to Rs. 29·35 lakhs. The amount collected during the same period on incomes below Rs. 1,000 was Rs. 6·8 lakhs.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

464 & 465 *Questions.*—**464** [XVIII].—What is the total amount of the income-tax collected in the year 1903–1904 ?

465 [XIX].—Whether there has been any, and, if so, what appreciable diminution in the total amount of the income-tax for the year 1903–1904 compared with that of the previous year due to the raising of the assessable minimum from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,000 ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

464 }
465 } *Answer.*—Information is not yet available.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

466 [XX] *Question.*—Is it a fact that the Government intend making vaccination compulsory in some parts of the presidency ?

The Hon'ble Mr Hammick :—

Answer.—Vaccination has already been made compulsory in some parts of the Presidency. The question of gradually extending the area within which the operation is compulsory is under the consideration of Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

467 [XXI] *Question.*—Were about 450 persons consisting of pressmen, machinemen, ballers and type-casters of the Government Press, Madras, dismissed

from Government employment by the Superintendent, Government Press? If so, was this dismissal in contravention of the rules relating to the dismissal of Government servants embodied in G.O., No. 1313, Public, dated 31st December 1898?

The Hon'ble Mr Hammick:—

Answer.—One hundred and thirty-seven press and machine men were dismissed on the 2nd January 1904 for refusing to work overtime. These men were given due notice that the changes in the rules as regards overtime would be enforced on the first working day in January, and they declined to accept them. From the 10th of November these men had refused to work overtime to the great inconvenience of the press. The Superintendent gave the men full notice that this would not be allowed from the new year; and, under the rules of the press, he was perfectly justified in refusing to permit the men to work any longer in the press.

The binders (125) refused to work unless they were given one hour for tiffin instead of half an hour and they also asked for the grant of the casual leave, which was stopped under the new rules, all overtime being paid for as a concession to the men. Throughout the morning of the 2nd January these men refused to work; they were told that if the tiffin time was extended by half an hour they would have to add the half hour on to their working hours. This they refused to agree to. In consequence they were turned out.

The type foundry men, 63 in number, followed the binders and were similaly turned out.

The rest of the men were temporary men.

The rules referred to by the Honourable Member do not, of course, apply to a strike of operatives who are acting in combination to defy authority.

The Hon'ble Mr. Krishnan Nayar:—

468 [XXII] *Question*.—Has this dismissal led to considerable delay and inconvenience in getting Government papers printed in the Government Press?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick:—

Answer.—Yes.

The Hon'ble Mr. Krishnan Nayar:—

469 [XXIII] *Question*.—Is it a fact that, by reason of their sudden dismissal, these 450 persons and their families depending on them have been reduced to great straits?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick:—

Answer.—The Government have no information on the matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. Krishnan Nayar:—

470 [XXIV] *Question*.—Have these 450 persons submitted a petition to Government against the action of the Superintendent, Government Press?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick:—

Answer.—Yes.

The Hon'ble Mr. Krishnan Nayar:—

471 [XXV] *Question*.—Will the Government be pleased to favourably consider their petition if it has not been already disposed of?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick:—

Answer.—Before the petition was submitted to Government the acting Chief Secretary saw representatives from the men and discussed the position with them in the presence of the Superintendent, Government Press. The men

refused to accept the new rules of work and declined to work overtime and in consequence they could not be re-entertained. Orders were subsequently issued on the petition.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

472 [XXVI] *Question.*—Is it a fact that by reason of the dismissal of these persons Government printing work at Madras had to be doneby the Government Presses at Simla and Calcutta ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—Yes.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

473 [XXVII] *Question.*—Has this arrangement of getting the work done in Simla and Calcutta involved great inconvenience and additional cost to Government ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—Some inconvenience has been caused. It is impossible as yet to say whether or not there will be additional cost.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

474 [XXVIII] *Question.*—Did the Government make a promise in 1893 to appoint a member of the Provincial Service as Under Secretary to Government and, if so, will they fulfil that promise when the next vacancy occurs ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—No such promise has ever been made. It is presumed that the Honourable Member refers to notification No. 483, Public, of the 16th December 1892, under which one post of Under Secretary to Government has been declared to be an appointment "to which members of the Madras Provincial Civil Service can properly be appointed subject to the rules for the time being in force under 33 Vic., cap. 3, sec. 6."

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

475 [XXIX] *Question.*—(*a*) With reference to G.O., No. 169, Educational, dated 11th March 1904, directing that none of the candidates who appeared for any of the Special Test examinations held in October last shall be held to have satisfied the examiners, will the Government be pleased to state whether they will refund the examination fees to those candidates who, the Government may be convinced, are not connected with the frauds practised in connection with the examination papers ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to take into their favourable consideration the case of those innocent candidates whose official position and prospects are dependent on the results of the last examinations and who would materially suffer by reason of their not having passed the examinations this year ?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to hold special examinations in substitution of those that have been already cancelled ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The answer to (*a*) and (*c*) is in the negative. As regards (*b*) Government are considering how to deal with such candidates.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

476 [XXX] *Question.*—The Government having cancelled the Special Test examinations held in October 1903, will the Government be pleased to order the refund of the fees collected from the candidates or exempt from fees those who may come up again for the same tests ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to the preceding question * of the Hon'ble Mr. Krishnan Nayar.

* 475 supra, p. 166.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

477 [XXXI] *Question.*—Madura being a more enterprising centre of weaving industry with larger weaving population than Salem, will the Government be pleased to establish the proposed weaving school at Madura in accordance with the suggestion of Mr. J. W. Coombes, Weaving Assistant, School of Arts, in preference to the proposal of Mr. A. Chatterton to locate the school at Salem ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer .—The proposal to establish a weaving school outside Madras town has, for the present, been withdrawn. If it is renewed, the selection of the locality in which it can best be placed will receive due consideration.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

478 [XXXII] *Question.*—Has the attention of Government been called to the observation of the acting Joint Magistrate of Nandyal in the murder case against the village munsif of Maddikera reported in the *Hindu* of 2nd February 1904 and will the Government be pleased to take notice of the alleged irregularities of the Police and the Taluk Magistrate commented upon by Mr. J. W. Hughes, I.C.S.?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—Government's attention was drawn to the matter, which is one for disposal by the local authorities. The Government consider that there is no need to call for any report.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

479 [XXXIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that in the L. T. Degree examination a fee of Rs. 15 is paid for the theoretical part and a similar fee for the practical part ?

(*b*) Is it also a fact that a candidate who cannot appear for the practical portion because of his failure in the theoretical is not given back his fee on the practical part ?

(*c*) The two portions being distinct, will the Government be pleased to order the refund of the moiety of the fee paid for the practical portion to the candidates who are not allowed to appear for that part in consequence of their failure in the theoretical portion ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The facts appear to be as stated. As regards the third part of the question any proposal to alter the present course of business would properly originate with the Senate of the University.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

480 [XXXIV] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(1) the number of security cases filed before the magistracy in the district of Tinnevelly for four years before and after 1899 ;

(2) the number of cases wherein the parties were bound over ; and

(3) the number wherein the parties were discharged on appeal or in revision ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—A statement will be prepared and laid on the table, but it is unlikely that the particulars asked for under heads (2) and (3) will be available.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

481 [XXXV] *Question.*—(*a*) Is not one of the Under Secretaryships to Government an appointment reserved for the members of the Provincial Civil Service?

(*b*) Is it a fact that since 1893 this appointment has not been conferred upon a member of that service?

(*c*) If so, will the Government be pleased to give it to a member of the Provincial Civil Service when the earliest opportunity turns up?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

* 474 *supra*, p. 166.

Answer.—The question has already been answered in reply * to the Hon'ble Mr. Krishnan Nayar.

The Hon'ble Mr. GOVINDARAGHAVA AIYAR :—

482 [XXXVI] *Question.*—Has the attention of the Government been drawn to a letter in the *Hindu* of the 24th December last and entitled "A subject for the Congress" and to another in the issue of the 16th January 1904, headed "Confidential communications", and to the leaderettes in the issue of the 20th January on the same matter, as also to an article headed "Subordinate Government services and pensions" in the issue of 8th March 1904?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—No.

The Hon'ble Mr. GOVINDARAGHAVA AIYAR :—

483 [XXXVII] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the existing rules on the subject of confidential reports affecting unfavourably the character and prospects of promotion of public servants?

(*b*) Are the reports ever acted on, or taken notice of, without an opportunity being afforded to the subordinate concerned to state his case in defence?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to rule that no confidential reports affecting the character or prospects of promotion of any public servant shall be acted upon, or kept on the record, without sufficient opportunity being afforded to the subordinate concerned of stating his case in defence and without the issue of proceedings recorded thereon being communicated to him?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—All the information which can properly be given on this subject is contained in the various departmental Codes, Regulations and Standing Orders which are available to the Honourable Member.

The Hon'ble Mr. GOVINDARAGHAVA AIYAR :—

484 [XXXVIII] *Question.*—In enquiries into charges against public servants, will the Government be pleased to state whether during the progress of an inquiry confidential reports or secret documents of any kind withheld from accused are taken into consideration in the decisions, and, if so, will the Government be pleased to declare themselves against the practice?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative, and the Government see no reason for making the declaration asked for by the Honourable Member.

The Hon'ble Mr. GOVINDARAGHAVA AIYAR :—

485 [XXXIX] *Question.*—(*a*) Are the principles and rules of procedure approved of by the Government of India and republished in Madras G.O., No. 2290, Public, of 3rd December 1883, and embodied in the Board's Standing Orders, duly followed in the several departments of the Government?

(b) Have the Government received any representations to the contrary within the past five years, and, if so, in how many cases?

(c) In how many of such cases were the representations found to be real, and what relief, if any, was given to the affected party in each case and what action taken against the enquiring officers who offended against the rules?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(a) It is the desire of Government that they should be duly followed.

(b) Almost every appellant alleges that his case had not been disposed of according to the rules, and the Government do not consider any advantage would be gained by examining all the appeals filed in the last five years, to answer the Honourable Member's question.

(c) In every case where it appears that the rules have not been duly observed inquiry is made and if necessary the appellant obtains redress and the attention of the officer who originally disposed of the case is drawn to his neglect to observe the rules.

The Hon'ble Mr. Govindaraghava Aiyar :—

486 [XL] *Question*.—(a) Is it a fact that the people of Satyavizianagaram in Arni division, North Arcot district, were ordered in February last to evacuate that village in consequence of a case of plague alleged to have occurred there?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to specifically direct that in all cases where evacuation is ordered temporary camps or lodging houses be provided for the people bound by the order before effect is given to it?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) The Honourable Member's attention is drawn to Rule 72 (3) of the Plague Regulations published on page 80 of *Fort St. George Gazette*, Part I-A, of 16th February 1904, in which it is provided that such arrangements as the Collector thinks fit shall be made before evacuation for the accommodation, in a health camp or elsewhere, of those who may be unable to provide shelter for themselves.

The Hon'ble Mr. Govindaraghava Aiyar :—

487 [XLI] *Question*.—(a) With reference to the order of the Government, No. 169, Educational, dated 11th March 1904, will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the papers relating to the inquiry, if any, on which the said order was made inclusive of the evidence taken at the inquiry and the report of the officers who conducted the inquiry?

(b) Is it the case that great hardship has been caused by the above order to the large majority of the candidates that appeared at the Special Test examinations held in October last who cannot be taken to have participated in any fraud therein?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to direct that no fee be levied for appearance at the next Special Test examinations from candidates that have appeared at the examinations in last October and that are not shown to have in any way participated in the fraud relating to it?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to direct that as a special case Special Test examinations be held in May 1904 at which candidates that appeared in the examinations in October last may be allowed to appear?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(a) The answer to this part of the question is in the negative.

(b), (c) & (d) The Honourable Member is referred to the answer to question XXIX * put by the Hon'ble Mr. Krishnan Nayar.

* 475 supra p. 166.

The Hon'ble Mr. Govindaraghava Aiyar :—

488 [XLII] *Question*.—(a) Whether the proprietor of the Berikai estate is a ward of the Court of Wards?

(*b*) Whether he was allowed to live in Bangalore and have his education there?

(*c*) Whether he has now been removed from Bangalore to Newington at Madras, and, if so, why he has been so removed?

(*d*) Whether the ward has been recently initiated into "Lingam puja" and whether he does not require Lingayat priests to attend upon him to enable him to perform the puja?

(*e*) Whether it is true that the ward cannot take cooked food, unless he performs the puja?

(*f*) Whether any arrangement has been made at Newington for Lingayat priests to attend on the ward when he has to perform the puja?

(*g*) Whether complaints have been received of the ill-treatment by Mr. Morrison of the ward, and, if so, what has been done on these complaints?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—(*a*) & (*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Yes, because it was considered advisable.

(*d*) & (*e*) Government understand that the facts are as suggested by the Honourable Member.

(*f*) Yes.

(*g*) No complaints have been received by Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. Govindaraghava Aiyar :—

489 [XLIII] *Question.*—With reference to appendix VI to the resolution of the Board of Revenue, Madras, No. 542, dated 6th December 1900, published at page 241 of the "Indian Land Revenue Policy", will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the papers and the details on which the estimates therein given are based?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—The appendix referred to is sufficiently explained in paragraphs 69 and 70 of the Board's resolution, printed on pages 220 and 221 of the "Land Revenue Policy of the Government of India". Government are unable to comply with the Honourable Member's request.

The Hon'ble Mr. Govindaraghava Aiyar :—

490 [XLIV] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it the fact that the Superintendent of the Government Press, Madras, dismissed the pressmen, machinemen, binders and type-casters of the press, numbering about 450, on the 2nd January last?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether, before dismissing the 450 men, the Superintendent conformed to the orders of the Government of India and the Local Government regulating the dismissal of public servants? If the answer be in the negative, why was the procedure laid down in the above orders departed from in the case of these men?

(*c*) Is it true that the pressmen and the machinemen submitted a memorial to the Chief Secretary to Government representing certain long-standing grievances and praying for immediate redress in February 1903?

(*d*) Is it true that no orders were passed thereon till 20th December 1903?

(*e*) Is it true that, consequent on the order of the 20th December 1903, the pressmen, machinemen, binders and type-casters of the Government Press represented to the Superintendent of the Press on the 31st idem that under the new system of working indicated in the order of the 20th December 1903 their position would be affected in many ways, that many technical difficulties would present themselves in giving practical effect to that system, and that they found it necessary to make a further representation to the Chief Secretary?

(*f*) Is it true that the Superintendent held a long conference with several of the workmen on the morning of the 2nd January 1904 relative to the representations made by them on the 31st December 1903 ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) & (*b*) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to question XXI *. * 487 *supra*, p. 104.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) It is true that the men made representation to the Superintendent, Government Press, on the 31st December, and the Superintendent of the Government Press explained the new system to the men and said it was impossible to postpone the introduction of the new rules as the men had refused to work any overtime since November 1903.

(*f*) Yes.

The Hon'ble Mr. Govindaraghava Aiyar :—

491 [XLV] *Question*.—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the pressmen, machinemen, binders and type-casters of the Government Press refused to do their work on the morning of the 2nd January last ?

(*b*) If the refusal be true, will the Government be pleased to state how, when, by whom and under what circumstances was the refusal expressed ?

(*c*) Did the Superintendent take down in writing the statement of any of those who so refused ?

(*d*) Was any explanation in writing regarding the refusal to do work demanded by the Superintendent, or offered by any of the dismissed workmen previous to their dismissal ?

(*e*) Will the Government be pleased to state what arrangements the Superintendent has made since he dismissed the 450 and odd men on the 2nd January 1904 to replace them by others to cope with the work of the press ?

(*f*) If any new hands have been employed, will the Government be pleased to state the conditions as to salary, etc., under which they have been employed and also as to whether the task-work system and the restricted mid-day interval of half an hour applied to them ?

(*g*) If the answer to the latter part of the above question be in the negative, will the Government be pleased to state why those two conditions are not enforced with regard to the newly-entertained men ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer—(*a*) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply already given to Question XXI †. † *Ibid*.

(*b*) The men refused to work except upon their own terms.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) No.

(*e*) The Superintendent has by employing fresh hands and getting work done by private presses managed to carry on the work of the press.

(*f*) The half-hour rule for tiffin has been modified, as the men know, and the time allowed for tiffin is one hour, with the condition that the men work half-an-hour longer at the end of the day. The task-work system has not been introduced with the new hands.

(*g*) The men are entertained for a short period and have come from a distance on special terms. So it was not advisable to enforce the new rules with them.

The Hon'ble Mr. GOVINDARAGHAVA AIYAR:—

492 [XLVI] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the task-work system as ordered to be adopted by the Government Order of 20th December 1903 is in force in the Government of India Central Printing Press at Calcutta, the Bengal Secretariat Press, Calcutta, the Bombay Government Press, the Allahabad Government Press, or the Rangoon Government Press?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that for the past three months a large portion of the Government printing work that used to be done at Mint Buildings is being done at about a dozen local private presses, and at the Government Presses at Calcutta, Simla and Bombay?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick:—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government of India Central Printing Press, Calcutta, works on the piece-work system. The Secretariat Press, Bengal, does the same. The Government Press, Bombay, works on the task-work system. The Government Press, Allahabad, does the same; and in the Rangoon Government Press the Government of India's piece-work system has been prescribed but has not yet been introduced.

(*b*) Some printing work has been done during the past three months at the presses referred to in the Honourable Member's question.

The Hon'ble Mr. GOVINDARAGHAVA AIYAR:—

493 [XLVII] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the endowments in connection with Annadana Chattrams in Oratanad, Rajamadam and Nídámangalam in the Tanjore district were originally intended also for the dissemination of Sanskrit education, and, if so, will the Government be pleased to state whether such education is being given now, and, if not, will the Government be pleased to take steps to have Sanskrit education given in conformity with the objects of the original endowments?

(*b*) Is it the fact that the management of Annadana Kattalai Charities attached to the Tiruválúr temple in the Tanjore district was transferred to the Ajapa Pandara Sannidhi on the distinct understanding that a Sanskrit patasala should be maintained, and, if so, whether that condition is now fulfilled, and, if not, will the Government be pleased to take steps to have such a patasala maintained in proper order?

(*c*) Is it the fact that there are certain endowments attached to the Devastanam patasala at Kumbakónam and the Sanskrit patasala at Ammalagraharam in the Tanjore district? If so, what is the average annual income from such endowments, and is such income utilised for those patasalas, and, if not, will the Government be pleased to frame a scheme by which the whole income from the endowments can be properly utilised for the maintenance of those patasalas?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick:—

Answer.—The Government have no information on the subject.

The Hon'ble Mr. GOVINDARAGHAVA AIYAR:—

494 [XLVIII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state the steps, if any, taken to improve the indigenous Sanskrit schools since the appointment of the special Sub-Assistant Inspector of Sanskrit schools?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick:—

Answer.—The Sub-Assistant Inspector of Sanskrit schools has made three tours and has visited all the Sanskrit schools in the presidency once and some of them twice. In the course of his tours he has made suggestions to the pandits regarding the method of studying Sanskrit with a view to the improvement of the schools.

The Hon'ble Mr. Govindaraghava Aiyar :—

495 [XLIX] *Question.*—With respect to the remarks of the late Director of Public Instruction at the last budget meeting that the institution of the Inspector of Sanskrit schools was an experiment, and that he thought it was impossible to do much with these schools without destroying their characteristics, will the Government be pleased to state on what the remarks of the Director were based ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The remark of the late Director appears to have been an expression of his personal opinion.

The Hon'ble Mr. Govindaraghava Aiyar :—

496 [L] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state whether there is any inspection made with reference to the teaching of Sanskrit in schools and colleges wherein the English language is taught ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The results of the teaching of Sanskrit in schools and colleges where the English language is taught are tested at the various examinations in Sanskrit for which the students of Sanskrit present themselves.

The Hon'ble Mr. Govindaraghava Aiyar :—

497 [LI] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state whether there is any recognised examination or other test to determine the eligibility of pandits for grants, and if not, will the Government be pleased to institute one ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—There is no special examination to test the qualifications of pandits. A scheme for the establishment of a pandit's examination was submitted by the Director of Public Instruction in 1900, but was not considered suitable. The matter will now be referred to the Director of Public Instruction for further consideration.

The Hon'ble Mr. Prakasa Mudaliyar :—

498 [LII] *Question.*—What was the number of people who paid tax on incomes (other than salaries) ranging between Rs. 500 and Rs. 1,000 in the year immediately preceding the reduction of the taxable minimum, and what is the number of those who being entitled to exemption under the reduction were assessed on higher incomes during the year 1903-1904 ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—The number of assesees who paid tax on incomes (other than salaries) ranging between Rs. 500 and Rs. 1,000 in 1902-1903 was 49,131. No figures can yet be given for 1903-1904.

16. MEETING OF THE 29TH NOVEMBER 1904.

The Hon'ble MR. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

499 [I] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have an intention of abolishing the Physical Science chair in the Rajahmundry College?

(*b*) Having regard to the fact that the Rajahmundry College is the only first-grade college in the northern districts, and the only one where in these districts students are taught Physical Science, will the Government be pleased to retain the Physical Science chair in this college?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government have no present intention of abolishing the Physical Science chair in the Rajahmundry College.

(*b*) It is not the fact that the Rajahmundry College is the only first-grade college in the northern districts, nor is it the only institution in those districts where students are taught Physical Science for the B.A. Degree Examination.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

500 [II] *Question.*—Seeing that according to the existing rules the Chairman of a Municipal Council who happens to be the Revenue officer in charge of the division in which the municipality is situated, is empowered to assess the municipal taxes payable by himself, and the Chairman who does not happen to be the Revenue Divisional officer is not so empowered, and having regard to the noticeable distinction which thus exists between official and non-official Chairmen, will the Government be pleased to apply the same set of rules to both classes of Chairmen and abolish the distinction?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The case is inaccurately stated in the Honourable Member's question. The distinction is between a Revenue Divisional officer who is a Chairman and any other Chairman whether official or non-official and not between official and non-official Chairmen as stated by the Honourable Member. This distinction arises not under any "rules" but under section 52-A of the District Municipalities Act, and any amendment of it can be effected only by legislation. The Government do not propose to legislate in the matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

501 [III] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) What is the average percentage of enhancement in the existing land revenue assessment in the Salem district due to the reclassification of soils according to the settlement now in progress?

(*b*) What is the difference in percentage between the enhancement caused by an increase of $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in the existing assessment without any reclassification of soils and the enhancement caused by the reclassification of soils?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—No general reclassification of soils is being made in the resettlement now in progress in the five southern taluks of Salem district. The classes of land which have been ordered to be reclassified are described in the settlement notification published in the *Salem District Gazette* of 5th April and the two succeeding issues. The percentage of enhancement on these lands, which are of very limited extent, cannot be ascertained until the settlement operations are completed.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

502 [IV] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that B. Venkoba Rao, who was the Taluk Head Accountant at Námakkal in the Salem district, was dismissed from the public service by the Collector of the district because he was believed to be the author or inspirer of an article that appeared in the *Hindu* in April last ?

(*b*) Having regard to the 27 years of service which B. Venkoba Rao has put in, will the Government be pleased to either quash or at least modify the punishment inflicted upon him ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—The Government have received an appeal from Venkoba Rao against the Collector's order of dismissal, and have it now under their consideration.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

503 [V] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) What has been the total cost of the maintenance of the Agricultural College at Saidapet from the date of its establishment to the present day ?

(*b*) What is the number of students who were trained in the college and who have taken agriculture for a calling ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) The total cost up to 31st March 1904 has amounted to nine-and-a-quarter lakhs of rupees inclusive of nearly one lakh paid for scholarships.

(*b*) Since the establishment of the institution 512 students have been trained in it. Of these 472 appear to be alive on this date, of whom 27 are engaged directly in agriculture.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

504 [VI] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to sanction the grant of a small amount for supplying furniture to all the village munsifs' courts in the presidency ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—The Government are unable to accept the Honourable Member's suggestion.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

505 [VII] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been called to an article under the heading of "Land Revenue Administration" published in the *Hindu* of the 28th July 1904, wherein it is stated that the lands of one Ranulapalle Venkatappa of Nyamaddala, in the Dharmavaram taluk of the Anantapur district, alleged to be valued at Rs. 800, were sold for arrears of revenue of Rs. 2–12–0 and purchased by Government for want of bidders ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that Venkatappa paid the full arrears the next day after the sale and requested the local authorities to cancel the sale, and that his request was refused ?

(*c*) If, as is stated, the Government themselves are the purchasers, will the Government be pleased to cancel the sale on receipt of the arrears of revenue and the expenses, if any, connected with the sale ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—The Government have no information, but have called for it.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

506 [VIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to adhere and give effect to G.O., No. 86 L., dated 16th January 1897, regarding the selection and pay of Local Fund Engineers and Assistant Engineers, and cancel G.O., No. 1261 L., dated 7th October 1903, and G.O., No. 91 L., dated 16th January 1904, on the same subject?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state—

(i) What reasons they had for passing G.O., No. 1261 L. of 7th October 1903, while G.O., No. 86 L. of 16th January 1897, was in force?

(ii) Whether effect was given to G.O., No. 86 L., and whether any difficulty, and if so, what was felt in its actual working?

(iii) Whether, as stated in G.O., No. 86 L., Engineers "who are locally born and trained or locally trained" are not competent to perform the ordinary duties of Local Fund Engineers and Assistant Engineers?

(iv) What is the total number of District Board Engineers in this presidency, and how many of these are "locally born and trained or locally trained?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government see no reason to cancel their orders No. 1261 L., dated 7th October 1903, and No. 91 L., dated 16th January 1904.

(*b*) (i), (ii) & (iii) District Boards had frequently found it impossible on the occurrence of vacancies to secure qualified and trustworthy men on the rates of pay sanctioned in G.O., No. 86 L., dated 16th January 1897, which scale was actually introduced.

The Government therefore found it necessary to sanction the offer of higher salaries and to fix these on the incremental system with the view of improving the position of District Board Engineers and as an inducement to steady and continuous work. The orders of 7th October 1903 and 16th January 1904, while not applying to present incumbents, do not in any way exclude the appointment of persons who are locally born and trained or locally trained if they are found suitable.

(*b*) (iv) There is a District Board Engineer for each of the 21 districts in the presidency, and the names of these officers, except in the case of Anantapur and Malabar, are printed on page 274 of the Quarterly Civil List corrected up to 1st October 1904. The Government are unable to say definitely how many of them are locally born and trained or locally trained.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

507 [IX] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether their attention has been drawn to an article under the heading of "A Sad Case" published in the *Hindu* of the 28th April 1904, relating to the degradation of one Mr. Moss of the Forest department, and whether the allegations contained in the article are substantially true? and

(*b*) whether, if they are true, the Government will kindly give some help to the widow and children of Mr. Moss?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—The Government have seen the article referred to. The allegations contained in it are substantially untrue. Mr. Moss was reduced by Government from the top of the second to the top of the fourth grade of Extra Assistant Conservators, and his promotion stopped for six months, on account of repeated acts of insubordination and inefficiency, extending over many years.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

508 [X] *Question.*—With reference to question IV *, clauses (*e*), (*f*), (*g*) and (*h*), relating to the sales of land for arrears of revenue in the Wynaad taluk, asked in the

* 450 *supra*, p. 161.

meeting of this Council on the 12th April 1904, and the answer which the Government then gave, viz., the particulars asked for were not available, will the Government be pleased to state whether they are now available, and if not, whether they will call for and lay them on the table at the next meeting of this Council?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—The information desired by the Honourable Member has been called for and will be laid on the table when received.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

509 [XI] *Question.*—Adverting to the reply of the Hon'ble Mr. Hammick to question XIV* at the meeting of this Council held on the 18th December 1903, will the Government be pleased to state what further consideration the conduct of Major Fearnside, referred to therein, has since received from Government?

* 416 *supra*, p. 150.

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The matter received further consideration, and the Government arrived at the conclusion that as regards Major Fearnside, his transfer from Madras was sufficient.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

510 [XII] *Question.*—With reference to questions XVIII, XIX† and the latter part of question LII‡ regarding the amount and the number of persons assessed to income-tax for 1903–1904, asked in the meeting of this Council on the 12th April 1904, and the answer which the Government then gave, viz., the information sought for was then not available; will the Government be pleased to state—

† 454 and 465 *supra*, p. 164.
‡ 498 *supra*, p. 173.

(*a*) whether they have since called for the information required? and

(*b*) if they have not, whether they will call for it and lay it on the table at the next meeting of this Council?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—(*a*) & (*b*) The total amount of income-tax collected in 1902–1903 was Rs. 29·35 lakhs, and in 1903–1904 Rs. 23·85 lakhs. There was, therefore, a decrease of Rs. 5·50 lakhs in the latter year. It is impossible to say how much of this decrease was due to the raising of the assessable minimum from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,000. Government have no information as to the number of persons who, having been assessed in the year 1902–1903 in the class "from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,000", were in 1903–1904 transferred to the class "from Rs. 1,000 to Rs 1,250", nor do they consider it necessary to have statistics on the point collected.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

511 [XIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the Collector of Bellary has promulgated the following order :—

"When water is taken from a Government source of irrigation to mould bricks, a charge may be imposed which should be fixed with reference to all the circumstances of each case, such as the quantity of water required and the period for which it is taken. Payment should be demanded in advance, but if water is taken without complying with such demand or without any previous reference to Government officers, the person so taking it should be prosecuted under section 379 or 447 of the Indian Penal Code."

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to cancel the order?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—Orders were issued to the Collector of Bellary last June to cancel the order in question.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

512 [XIV] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that by reason of the District Munsif's Court of Vayitri being situated near the southern extremity of the Wynaad taluk, the litigant public of the greater part of the taluk find it costly and inconvenient to transact business in that Court?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to locate the Munsif's Court which is situated at Vayitri in a more central place in Wynaad so as to afford greater convenience and facilities for conducting suits to the litigant public of the Wynaad taluk?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government are not aware of any inconvenience being caused to the litigant public on account of the situation of the District Munsif's Court of Vayitri.

(*b*) The matter is one for the consideration of the High Court under section 5 of the Madras Civil Courts Act, 1873.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

513 [XV] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) Whether there are any lands on the banks of the Pálár river which have been rendered unfit for cultivation by reason of the recent floods, and if so, what is their area?

(*b*) Whether the people of Virinchipuram, Gudiyáttam and other places applied to the local authorities for remissions of revenue on these lands and with what result?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—The Hon'ble Member presumably refers to the floods of November 1903.

* 403 supra, p. 147.

His attention is invited to the answer given to a similar question* put by the Hon'ble Mr. Govindaraghava Aiyar at the meeting of this Council last December.

Government have not statistics of the exact areas rendered uncultivable. As to the second part of the Hon'ble Member's question, it was reported last March that some of the ryots of Gudiyáttam had applied for remission of assessment on their dry lands that had been affected by floods. The Collector recommended that, as some of the ryots had already applied for permission to relinquish their lands, instead of remission being granted, the ryots should be allowed to take that course. This recommendation as a very special case was approved by Government. No further information has been received from the Collector.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

514 [XVI] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that it is under contemplation to remove the Coimbatore hospital from the busy part of the town where it is now situated to its eastern end?

(*b*) If there is such a proposal, having regard to the convenience of a large majority of the people of Coimbatore, will the Government be pleased to veto it?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) It is under contemplation to remove the Coimbatore hospital from its present crowded and insanitary site and to build a new hospital in a good locality, to be approved by the Surgeon-General. The site has not as yet been finally selected.

(*b*) The answer is in the negative.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

515 [XVII] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the work of the High Court on the Original Side has diminished, and if so, to what extent, since the establishment of the City Civil Court in 1892?

(*b*) If the work has diminished appreciably, will the Government be pleased to take into their consideration the desirability of abolishing the post of Deputy Registrar on the Original Side?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) In the following statement the average numbers of suits, insolvent petitions and sessions cases filed annually on the Original Side during the eleven years 1882—1892 are compared with the corresponding average numbers for the eleven years 1893—1903 :—

	1882—1892.	1893—1903.
Suits	363	266
Insolvent petitions	164	259
Sessions cases	60	42
	587	567

(*b*) The Government do not consider that it is possible to abolish the post of Deputy Registrar on the Original Side.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

516 [XVIII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) Whether 40 is the average age of the Civil Apothecaries who have been made Civil Assistant Surgeons, third class, under G.O., No. 644, Public, dated 1st August 1904?

(*b*) Whether Rs. 100 is the monthly pay of these Civil Assistant Surgeons, third class?

(*c*) Whether it is necessary for these Assistant Surgeons to pass under the existing rules two septennial examinations, one at the average age of 47 and the other at the average age of 54, before they become entitled to promotion to the grades of Rs. 150 and Rs. 200, respectively?

(*d*) Whether, having regard to the difficulty of passing examinations at the ages of 47 and 54, the Government will direct the abolition of these two examinations, or order that, as stated in the Proceedings of the Government, Public Department, No. 639, dated 29th July 1904, after 21 years' service no examination is necessary for promotion in the case of these Assistant Surgeons?

(*e*) Whether, so far as the passing of these septennial examinations is concerned, the case of those Civil Apothecaries who are retained as Civil Apothecaries under G.O., No. 644, Public, dated 1st August 1904, is not better than that of those who are promoted to the rank of Assistant Surgeons?

(*f*) Whether, with reference to paragraph 8 of G.O., No. 644, Public, dated 1st August 1904, the Government will order that all Assistant Surgeons without any distinction whatever be regarded as gazetted officers?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer (*a*) & (*b*) The answer to (*a*) and (*b*) is in the affirmative.

(*c*) Yes; but such of the Assistant Surgeons as have passed two septennial examinations as apothecaries will not be required to undergo any further examination for promotion.

(*d*) The Government are not prepared to abolish these examinations, except in the case of those referred to in the reply to (*c*) of the Honourable Member's question.

(*e*) The Government do not think so.

(*f*) The Government are not prepared to direct that all Assistant Surgeons shall be gazetted officers.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

517 [XIX] *Question* (*a*) Is it a fact that out of the total number of convicts of the presidency in the year 1903, 4,355 were juvenile offenders and that 660 of them were girls ?

(*b*) The accommodation in the Chingleput Reformatory being only for 160, were the rest allowed to be in the company of the hardened elderly offenders ?

(*c*) If so, will the Government be pleased to take steps to remedy this evil and provide for the useful bringing up of all the juvenile offenders without the contamination of the confirmed elderly criminals ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer (*a*) The total number of juvenile offenders admitted into jails and subsidiary jails during the year 1903 was 469, of whom 134 were girls.

(*b*) The answer is in the negative. Separate cells or wards are reserved in almost all the jails in the presidency for the detention of juveniles, and arrangements are made for the transfer of juvenile offenders to jails where such accommodation exists.

(*c*) To prevent the contamination of juvenile prisoners by association with confirmed criminals in jails is an object which the Government keep constantly in view.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

518 [XX] *Question* (*a*) Are the Government aware that the Municipal Council of Coimbatore passed last year resolutions to demolish and open out the congested portions of the town where plague was lingering and that the resolutions still stand a dead letter ?

(*b*) Are the Government further aware that four successive Collectors of Coimbatore have personally visited the congested parts of the town and required the demolition of them but have not seen that the resolutions of the Municipal Council were promptly carried out ?

(*c*) In view to check the recrudescence of plague in the town of Coimbatore and its spread into the taluks and thence into the adjoining districts, will the Government be pleased to direct that the overcrowded parts of Coimbatore town be fully opened out immediately ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—Proposals were received by Government in July last for opening up the congested portions of the town. Further information has been called for from the Collector, on receipt of which the subject will receive full consideration.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

519 [XXI] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the grazing fees in the forests of Anantapur have increased from Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 30,000 within the last five years ?

(*b*) Is it also a fact that the Hon'ble Mr. Sim recommended the reduction of the grazing fees by a third ?

(*c*) Considering the poor condition of the ryots in the district of Anantapur, will the Government be pleased to adopt the recommendation of the Board and reduce the grazing fees by a third or as much as it may be possible ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer (*a*) The grazing receipts in Anantapur increased from Rs. 3,374 to Rs. 29,895 in the five years ending with 1902.

(*b*) The Board of Revenue recommended the reduction of grazing rates by one-third as a temporary and experimental measure.

(*c*) The Government consider that there is no good ground for reducing the rates. The existing rates are very moderate: and the increase in receipts is due mainly to illicit grazing and the illicit collection of fees by subordinates being put a stop to, and to natural and proper causes. In a district such as Anantapur where there are large areas of unreserved waste land, any increase in grazing receipts from reserves is in itself evidence that the fees charged are easily paid.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

520 [XXII] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the article headed "Union Panchayats" in the *Hindu*, dated the 20th of August 1904, and to the fact pointed out therein, viz., that the members of the panchayats are official nominees?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to place the Union Panchayats on a popular basis so that the members thereof may be able to act independently without experiencing a feeling of subordination to the Chairman who is an official—a Sub-Registrar or an Hospital Assistant?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The Government have now perused the article. The members of a Union Panchayat are not subordinate to the Chairman. The Government have on more than one occasion issued instructions that Government officials, other than village officers or medical subordinates, should not be appointed to these bodies, when competent non-officials are available. The Government do not consider that any special action is called for.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

521 [XXIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the travellers' bungalow at Tuticorin is occupied by the municipal office to the great detriment and inconvenience of the travellers?

(*b*) If it is a fact, will the Government be pleased to state why and how long it has been so used?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to direct that the Municipal Council rents some other building and vacates the travellers' bungalow and thereby save the travelling public from the hardship they are subjected to?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—There was a Government travellers' bungalow at Tuticorin which was transferred to the municipality in 1872. It was closed in 1884 because, owing to the competition of private hotels, the Municipal Council could not maintain it except at a loss. The building was then made over to the municipality on condition that it was kept in repair by the Council, who should hand it back when required to do so. The Government are not prepared to ask the Council to vacate the building which is now used for municipal offices.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

522 [XXIV] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the Land Revenue collections of the presidency for fasli 1312 have exceeded the demand by Rs. 3,09,039?

(*b*) Is not this excess collection the result of the non-preparation of the pattas until the period of the jamabandi which generally comes off in the month of July after the kist-collecting period is all over?

(*c*) Are the Government aware that in the Presidency of Bombay the pattas are all prepared and given before December which is the beginning of the kist-collecting season?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to adopt the Bombay system and direct the issue of the pattas before the commencement of the kist-collecting season and thereby do away with the unnecessary holding of a jamabandi after the kists are collected?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—(*a*) The fact is as stated.

(*b*) The Standing Orders of the Board of Revenue direct that the jamabandi of each taluk must be completed within the fasli year at latest, and with very rare exceptions under special circumstances these orders are observed; the various causes to which the excess collections are to be attributed are enumerated on page 12 of G.O., No. 327, dated 21st March 1904, which has been placed on the Editors' Table.

(*c*) & (*d*) The Government are not aware of the practice in Bombay. It is impossible in Madras for jamabandi to be completed so as to permit of the distribution of pattas as a rule before the kist months.

The Hon'ble Mr. Srinivasa Rao :—

523 [XXV] *Question*.—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the leader in the *Madras Standard*, dated 29th October 1904, on the results of the University elections?

(*b*) Is it true that there was any improper canvassing, the heads of departments taking any part in the recent elections?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the results of University elections in Bombay and Calcutta were made public as soon as the poll took place?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to state the reasons, if any, as to why the result of the election of the 10 Fellows in Madras was kept a secret while the provision in clause (*h*) of section 12 of the University Act is clear on the subject?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government have now perused the article referred to.

(*b*) & (*c*) The Government have no information on the subject.

(*d*) The question is unintelligible. It is not understood which Fellows are referred to. No election was kept secret. The attention of the Honourable Member is drawn to the provisions of section 12 (*h*) of the Indian Universities Act, 1904, under which the election of Fellows under that section requires the approval of the Chancellor and they cannot be declared Fellows till so approved.

The Hon'ble Mr. Srinivasa Rao :—

524 [XXVI] *Question*.—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to an article headed "Irrigation in Tinnevelly" in the *Hindu*, dated 3rd October 1904?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the standing crops in the village of Kalakad in Nanguneri taluk have failed for want of water?

(*c*) If it is true, will the Government be pleased to direct that sufficient relief is given to the ryots concerned?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government have now perused the letter referred to.

(*b*) They have no information as to the correctness of the facts alleged.

(*c*) The local Revenue authorities are competent to deal with the matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. Srinivasa Rao :—

525 [XXVII] *Question*.—In an article headed "Assessment on lands", in the third page of the *Hindu*, dated 3rd October 1904, Diwan Bahadur M.R.Ry. R. Raghunatha Rao Avargal asserts—

(*a*) that the poor dry lands owned by the largest number of cultivators are too highly assessed in Tanjore;

(*b*) that the wet assessment in Tanjore is more than 25 per cent. of the gross produce according to settlement account and that the same has been mathematically proved to be correct;

(c) that the outturn of the wet fields has, as a rule, been calculated at higher figures than the actuals;

(d) that more than half of his wet lands yields considerably smaller outturns than those fixed by Government;

(e) that his endeavours to have the state of things corrected have proved futile without any hearing being allowed to him; and

(f) that the statement of the Government of Madras, viz., that if one-fifth of the value of the gross produce be taken as the Government revenue, the revenue of Madras will be doubled, is not correct.

Has the attention of Government been drawn to the above strong assertions and will the Government be pleased to state if they (the assertions) are correct or establish their incorrectness by facts and figures for the benefit of the public?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—The assertions made in the letter referred to, which the Government have now perused, relate to the settlement of Tanjore which was completed ten years ago for a period of thirty years and cannot now be re-opened for discussion.

The Hon'ble Mr. Srinivasa Rao :—

526 [XXVIII] *Question.*—(a) Is it a fact that in one of the two Mission High Schools in Negapatam Bible lessons have been made compulsory in all the classes, while in the other an attempt was made to convert a Hindu student to the Christian religion?

(b) Is it not the policy of the Government to secure a religious element in education without placing any practical hindrance on it, when the people of the country wish for it?

(c) Are the Government aware that His Excellency Lord Ampthill stated in one of His Excellency's public utterances that religious instruction is of paramount importance in the education of the young, whether they be Christians, Muhammadans, or Hindus, and that the study of religion is too much neglected by the rising generation of Hindus?

(d) While so, are the Government aware that the Director of Public Instruction has refused departmental recognition to the new National High School that has been started at Negapatam by the leaders of the Muhammadan and Hindu communities, satisfying all the requirements of the Educational Department?

(e) Is it a fact that the committee of the National High School, Negapatam, has applied to the Director of Public Instruction requesting the reconsideration of his order and submited a memorial to His Excellency the Governor in Council praying for the recognition of the institution?

(f) Will the Government be pleased to give their best consideration to the matter and direct that the new National High School at Negapatam may be duly recognised?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(a) The Government have no information on the subject.

(b) For an authoritative statement of the present policy of Government in regard to religious instruction in aided schools the Honourable Member is referred to paragraph 25 of the Resolution of the Government of India which is published in Part I-B of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 22nd March 1904.

(c) A report of His Excellency Lord Ampthill's speech delivered at Nellore in October 1903 appeared in the public press at the time.

(d), (e) & (f) The Government received a few days ago a memorial from the National High School Committee, Negapatam, wherein it is stated that the Director of Public Instruction has refused to recognize their school. The memorial is under consideration.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

527 [XXIX] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that, after due enquiry and inspection, the Settlement officers of 1870 arrived at the conclusion that what are called "the baling wet lands" in the district of Salem could not bear an assessment higher than that which was then imposed on them?

(*b*) In the case of such lands, have the irrigational facilities been since improved to any extent, or has any increase of water-supply been guaranteed to them?

(*c*) If not, will the Government be pleased to hold that such lands ought not to be subjected to any increased assessment under the new principle of general percentage enhancement of the current rate of assessment?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—(*a*) In applying the scale of rates fixed for the Salem district in 1870 to "baling wet lands", the next lower rate to that at which the land would otherwise have been assessed was imposed in most cases in order to compensate for the extra cost of baling.

In all other districts the practice has for many years been to grant a fixed remission of a certain percentage of the ordinary assessment on baling lands : and in order to bring Salem into line with other districts, such lands in Salem are now being inspected and assessed at the rates corresponding to those at which they would have been assessed in 1870, if they had not been baling lands. From the assessment so determined, the fixed percentage remission on account of baling will be deducted.

(*b*) Since 1870 the position of some of the lands has been improved and baling is no longer necessary.

(*c*) Baling lands have benefited by the general rise of prices since 1870 to no less an extent than other lands in the district, and there is therefore no reason why they should not be subjected to the increased rates which are applicable to the whole district.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

528 [XXX] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the copyists in the District Courts of the presidency are not entitled to any kind of leave (casual, privilege or even sick leave) and that their service is not pensionable?

(*b*) Is it also a fact that the copyists' department attached to the District Courts of the presidency leaves a surplus after meeting the cost of all its establishment?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to order that the service of the hard-worked copyists may be made pensionable with the privileges enjoyed by the inferior servants of Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) Copyists in the District Courts are paid according to the work done. They are not borne on the permanent establishment and the leave and pension rules applicable to Government servants do not apply to them.

(*b*) It is not possible to give separate figures for the receipts and charges of the copyist establishments of District Courts since in every district, except Salem, copies applied for in the District Court are prepared by a central copyist establishment which also prepares copies for other courts (Sub-Judge's and District Munsif's). The total receipts during 1903 for all central copyist establishments in which the copyist work of a District Court was done were Rupees 1,02,699 and the direct charges during the year were Rs. 92,563.

(*c*) The Government see no sufficient reason to adopt the course proposed.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

529 [XXXI] *Question.*—(*a*) Are the Government aware that Mr. Dance, the Collector of Chingleput, has issued a circular order enjoining the subordinate officials

to bring to notice all cases of interception of rain or drainage water by means of ridges or field embankments in view to charge them with water-rate or penal assessment?

(b) Has the circular order had the approval or the sanction of the Board of Revenue or the Government?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state if they know, or call for a report of the circumstances which have led up to the issue of the circular?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—The Government have already called for information in the matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

530 [XXXII] *Question*.—Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the information called for by the Hon'ble Mr. Ratnasabhapati Pillai in question XI * put by him at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 6th day of April 1903 regarding the increase of revenue in the districts in which the new revenue settlements have been introduced?

* 334 *supra*, p. 122.

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—A statement containing the information desired was laid on the table in April 1903.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

531 [XXXIII] *Question*.—(a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the circular published in about ten pages of the *District Gazette of Malabar* for the month of June 1904 enjoining the adoption of the form in which the District Collector and his subordinates are to be addressed and stating that communications addressed otherwise than in the prescribed petition form will be summarily rejected?

(b) Under the Standing Orders of the Board of Revenue the functions of prescribing forms of communication being with the Board of Revenue and the Government, will the Government be pleased to direct the withdrawal of the circular order?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—The Government have perused the circular in question. They consider that it should be largely modified and orders will be issued to that effect.

The Hon'ble Mr. GOVINDARAGHAVA AIYAR :—

532 [XXXIV] *Question*.—In connection with the reply to my question XXXVII (a), (b) and (c) † put at the meeting of the Council on the 12th April last, will the Government be pleased to state what the various Departmental Codes, Regulations and Standing Orders are to which reference was made in the reply?

† 483 *supra*, p. 168.

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The lists of the publications available to the public will be found from time to time in the *Fort St. George Gazette*.

The Hon'ble Mr. GOVINDARAGHAVA AIYAR :—

533 [XXXV] *Question*.—(a) Will the Government be pleased to state what the amount of the income-tax is for the year 1902–1903 assessed on incomes above Rs. 1,000 and below Rs. 1,250?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state what the amount of the income-tax is assessed for the year 1903–1904 and how much of it is assessed on incomes above Rs. 1,000 and below Rs. 1,250?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—(a) The income-tax collected in the year 1902–1903 on incomes above Rs. 1,000 and below Rs. 1,250 was Rs. 2·15 lakhs.

(b) The amount of income-tax collected in the year 1903–1904 was Rs. 23·85 lakhs, of which Rs. 3·31 lakhs was on incomes above Rs. 1,000 and below Rs. 1,250.

The Hon'ble Mr. GOVINDARAGHAVA AIYAR :—

534 [XXXVI] *Question.*—(a) Are the Government aware that a High school by name the "National High School" has been established at Negapatam in which religious as well as secular instruction is given to the Hindu and Muhammadan pupils of the school?

(b) If the reply to the above question is in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state whether the "National High School" is the only institution at Negapatam wherein instruction in the Hindu and Muhammadan religions is given to the pupils therein in the respective religions of their fathers?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the National High School at Negapatam fulfils the conditions of recognition as required by the Educational rules? And if it do not satisfy any of those conditions, will the Government be pleased to state which of those conditions are not so satisfied?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the managers or the promoters of the above school have applied to the Director of Public Instruction for the recognition of the school under the Educational rules?

(e) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Director of Public Instruction has refused recognition on the ground that from an educational point of view the needs of the locality do not warrant the recognition of a third High school at Negapatam?

(f) If the reply to the above question is in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to ask the Director to reconsider the order and direct him to recognise the school on the ground that instruction is given in the Hindu and Muhammadan religions to the pupils in it?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(a), (b), (c) The Government have no information as to the nature of the instruction imparted in the National High School, Negapatam.

(d), (e) & (f) The Honourable Member is referred to the answer to question * XXVIII (d), (e) & (f).

* 526 supra, p. 183.

The Hon'ble Mr. GOVINDARAGHAVA AIYAR :—

535 [XXXVII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to publish the papers containing the views of the officers consulted with reference to the creation of the new district of Guntúr and to the fixing of the divisions and the territorial limits of Gódávari, Kistna, Guntúr and Nellore districts?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The Government are not prepared to publish the views of the officers consulted before these new districts were created.

The Hon'ble Mr. GOVINDARAGHAVA AIYAR :—

536 [XXXVIII] *Question.*—Will the Government, before passing final orders on the redistribution of the Central and Southern districts, be pleased to publish their proposals regarding the same and their reasons therefor with a view to elicit public opinion thereon?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The Government will not undertake to publish their proposals.

The Hon'ble Mr. GOVINDARAGHAVA AIYAR :—

537 [XXXIX] *Question.*—(a) Are the Government aware that in Chingleput district Achukattu lands or lands enclosed by field ridges or embankments are charged with water-rate and penal assessment on the ground that the ridges interfere with the free flow of rain and drainage water to irrigation sources?

(*b*) Is the practice in vogue in other districts also ?

(*c*) Has the attention of Government been drawn in connection with the water-charge on Achukattu lands to an article headed "An arbitrary revenue order" and published in the *Hindu* of the 10th October last ?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to put a stop to this practice wherever it exists ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to the answer to question XXXI.*

* 529 *supra*, p. 184.

The Hon'ble Mr. GOVINDARAGHAVA AIYAR :—

538 [XL] *Question*.—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether in the opinion of Government the pay and position of the Assistant Surgeons in the Madras Presidency have been assimilated to those of the other provinces within the meaning of paragraph 6 of the resolution of the Government of India, Home Department, No. 1141–50, dated 22nd August 1898 ?

(*b*) If the reply is in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to move the Government of India to sanction the senior grade for this presidency to give the Assistant Surgeons prospects of further promotion after reaching the first grade on Rs. 200 after fourteen years of service ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) The Government are unable to make any statement in the matter at present.

The Hon'ble Mr. GOVINDARAGHAVA AIYAR :—

539 [XLI] *Question*.—With reference to the statement in G.O., No. 905, Revenue, dated 17th August 1904, that forest revenue under grazing rose in Anantapur district from Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 30,000, will the Government be pleased to state how much of the said amounts is covered by seigniorage fees and how much by compensation taken from trespassers ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—The figures quoted in the Government Order for the first three years comprise grazing fees proper only. Those quoted for 1900–1901 and for 1901–1902 include respectively Rs. 1,150 and Rs. 2,800 on account of compensation taken from trespassers.

The Hon'ble Mr. GOVINDARAGHAVA AIYAR :—

540 [XLII] *Question*.—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether Mr. Scott, the Collector of Anantapur, issued a circular to the Sub-Magistrates in the district showing the fines or the rates of fines levied in forest cases by the various Sub-Magistrates and calling on them to fine heavily in such cases and also to consider the advisability of imprisoning offenders in such cases ?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to cancel the order or direct the Collector to withdraw it ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The Government have no information on the subject, but will call for a report.

The Hon'ble Mr. GOVINDARAGHAVA AIYAR :—

541 [XLIII] *Question*.—Will the Government be pleased to call for a statement of the number of forest cases disposed of by the Sub-Magistrate of Tadpatri from the 1st April to 30th October 1904 and the punishments awarded in such of the cases as ended in conviction and a similar statement for the corresponding period of the last year ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The information will be called for and supplied to the Honourable Member.

The Hon'ble Mr. Govindaraghava Aiyar :—

542 [XLIV] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state whether the owners of cattle, sheep and goats living in the borders of forest reserves in Anantapur district have disposed of them in large numbers and, if so, can the Government give information as to the number of cattle, sheep and goats so disposed of?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—The Government have no information on the subject of the Honourable Member's question and cannot obtain it.

The Hon'ble Mr. Srinivasa Rao :—

543 [XLV] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it finally decided that the district of Madura is to be split up into two districts?

(*b*) If so, before the details of division are finally settled, will the Government be pleased to place them before the public so as to have the benefit of suggestions, if any?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) The Government are not prepared to publish the proposals.

The Hon'ble Mr. Srinivasa Rao :—

544 [XLVI] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that on the 10th of October 1895 the Periyár water came in a large volume and so overflowed the banks of the Suruli river that the rich and valuable lands on both its sides with the costly gardens on them were badly swept away?

(*b*) Is it also a fact that since then the bounds of the Suruli river have got contracted and its course deepened with the result that the old channels branching from the river and the lands on its sides do not benefit by the water that runs deep in the Suruli?

(*c*) Have the owners of such lands in Uttamapálaiyam division been put to irreparable loss and were they told that they would be compensated if their lands were permanently damaged?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to state the extent of lands, wet and dry, that have been actually damaged in Uttamapálaiyam, the number of ryots affected, and the number, if any, that have been compensated for the loss sustained by them?

(*e*) If the information is not available, will the Government be pleased to call for a report and place it on the table and cause the necessary relief to be granted?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—The whole matter is under the consideration of Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. Srinivasa Rao :—

545 [XLVII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that in the Native States of Travancore and Cochin there are regulations imposing on every religionist the obligation to obtain the sanction of the Darbar to the use of any new place as a place of public worship?

(*b*) Is there any similar provision of law in force in British India?

(*c*) Is it a fact that a similar enactment was once strongly recommended for this presidency by the members of the Malabar Land Commission, the Board of Revenue and the Judges of the High Court?

(*d*) In view to secure immunity from religious feuds and disturbances and to further promote good feelings among the various religionists of the land, will the Government be pleased to take early steps for the passing of a law requiring sanction to the use of new places for purposes of religious worship, procession or other demonstration?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) In 1884 the Malabar Land Commission drafted a Bill for controlling the erection and use of all buildings intended to be used as places of public worship and recommended that the Act should apply to Malabar only, but provided for its extension to other parts of the presidency by notification. In 1885 the Board of Revenue supported a proposal that the acquisition of sites for religious edifices and burial-grounds for all classes of the community should be considered "a public purpose", and that the land required for such purposes should be acquired under the Land Acquisition Act. Two Judges of the High Court approved of the draft "Places of Public Worship" Bill, and the opinion of the other Judges of the High Court at the time are not on record.

(*d*) The Government are not prepared to move in the matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

546 [XLVIII] *Question*.—(*a*) In forest offences is it not a fact that the District Forest Officer fixes on a slip attached to the crime report the amount of compensation for the damage alleged to be caused and that such compensation is very often 40 or 50 times the amount of the injury?

(*b*) Is it also a fact that circulars have been issued by the District Magistrates or by some of them calling upon the subordinate magistrates to be guided by the rate fixed by the forest officers?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state, if they know, or to ascertain the districts in which such circulars are issued and direct their withdrawal, as they have the effect of immensely fettering the discretion of the magistrates?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) As stated District Forest Officers may specify the amount for which forest cases may be compounded. The amount of composition is a matter within the discretion of the District Forest Officer, but the Government have repeatedly issued instructions that it is not to be fixed at too high a rate.

(*b*) & (*c*) The Government are not aware that any such circulars are in force in any district.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

547 [XLIX] *Question*.—(*a*) Are the Government aware that the British India Steam Navigation Company, which works between Negapatam and the Straits Settlements, hurts the religious feelings of the passengers—whether Muhammadan or Hindu—by compelling them to take the meals supplied by the Company, without allowing them to cook their own food, as they used to do some time ago?

(*b*) Will the Government, whose policy is not to disturb the religious feelings of their Indian subjects, be pleased to direct the Company to allow such passengers as may desire it to cook their own meals on board and thereby encourage and afford facilities to sea voyage and foreign travel?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The matter is one which is regulated by the Native Passenger Ships Act, 1887, and the rules made by the Government of India under the Act.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

548 [L] *Question*.—(*a*) Is it a fact that kaval fees under Regulation I of 1816 are still being collected on inam lands in the district of Tanjore?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to direct its discontinuance as being opposed to the provisions of the Village Cess Act and the Madras Act IV of 1893?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) The Government do not consider that the collection of the fees is illegal.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

549 [LI] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the Board of Revenue declined to receive a letter addressed by the Tanjore District Association praying for the re-publication of a rule regarding exemption from land-tax of lands bearing seedlings on the ground that the letter was not stamped with a two-rupees court-fee stamp?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to hold that the references and representations made by corporate bodies for the benefit of the public do not require to be stamped under the Stamp Law, as otherwise the usefulness of public bodies will be greatly impaired?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Board of Revenue declined to pass orders on a memorial received from the President of the Tanjore District Association on the ground that it was practically an appeal petition against an order of the District Collector and as such should bear a court-fee stamp of Rs. 2.

(*b*) The Government are unable to give the ruling desired by the Honourable Member.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

550 [LII] *Question.*—(*a*) Are the Government aware that the orders passed by the authorities on the representations made to them by the poor ryots are communicated to them "Service bearing", and that this procedure is felt by many as a great hardship?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to view the situation of the poor ryots with favour and direct that the communications to them are sent free of charges?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative, but the Government do not consider that it is a hardship that replies to representations made by private persons should be sent to them at their own and not at the public expense.

(*b*) The Local Government are not competent to issue any such orders; the attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the rules made by the Government of India on the subject which are reproduced as paragraphs 340 (1) and 344 of the Indian Postal Guide.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

551 & 552 *Questions.*—551 [LIII].—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of appeals made from the orders of the Collectors to the Board of Revenue during the last five years; and

(*b*) the number in which the Collectors' decisions were reversed by the Board?

552 [LIV].—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of appeals from the orders of the Board of Revenue to the Government; and

(*b*) the number of cases in which the decisions of the Board were reversed by Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

551 }
552 } *Answer.*—The Government see no reason to compile the statistics asked for.

17. MEETING OF THE 27TH JANUARY 1905.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

553 [I] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether one Oswald deRosario, who was the District Engineer under the Malabar District Board, was dismissed from his post by the President of the Board, and whether the appeal petition which the Engineer presented to the District Board against the order of dismissal was rejected by the Board ?

(*b*) whether Oswald deRosario presented a petition of appeal to the Government against the order of the Board, and what has become of this appeal ?

(*c*) whether Rosario's request to be given a hearing in the matter of his appeal to the Board either by counsel or in person was refused by the President ?

(*d*) whether at the time of the hearing of the appeal by the Board, the President made a speech to the members in which he reminded them that they were not elected, but appointed at his nomination ; that on the expiry of their term of office they could be removed at his will ; that they were there not to criticise his action, but to support him in all that he did ; and whether the President then moved that the appeal should be summarily rejected ?

(*e*) whether an amendment which was proposed by one member and seconded by another was not put to the vote, the proposer being told by the President to cut his speech short ?

(*f*) whether the appeal to the Board was heard *in camera*, whether the public were excluded from the meeting and whether the members of the Board were told by the President that the proceedings were confidential ?

(*g*) how many members were present at the meeting, how many voted for the appeal and how many against it, how many of those that voted against the appeal were officials, and how many refrained from voting ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) Mr. Rosario, who was District Engineer under the Malabar District Board, was in the first instance given one month's notice by the President, District Board, Malabar, that his services would be dispensed with. The period of notice was subsequently extended to three months, at the close of which his services were actually dispensed with. Mr. Rosario's appeal to the Board against this order was rejected by that body.

(*b*) Yes. The appeal was rejected by Government.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) The President's speech has not been reported and Government are not at present in possession of full information so as to allow of their answering this part of the question, but a report has been called for.

(*e*) An amendment was proposed but fell through for want of a seconder.

(*f*) Yes.

(*g*) There were 24 members present at the meeting. Four voted for the appeal and 14 against it ; the remaining six refrained from voting. Of the members who voted against the appeal five were officials.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

554 [II] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that by granting extension of office to the Subordinate Judges and other officers who have passed 55 years of age, efficiency in work is impaired, and a great deal of discontent is created among the Munsifs and other junior officers whose promotion is thereby blocked ?

(*b*) With a view to keep up a high level of efficiency and avoid discontent among a class of hard-worked officers, will the Government be pleased to discontinue the practice of granting extension of office to officers who have passed 55 years of age ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—Extension of service is not given to Subordinate Judges and other public officers who have passed 55 years of age unless they are in every respect efficient, mentally and bodily, for the continued performance of the duties of their office The Government of India have pointed out that the premature retirement of an efficient officer imposes a needless charge upon the State and that the State should not be deprived of the experience of efficient public servants by the exercise of the power possessed by a Local Government of compulsorily retiring them at 55 years of age. Government cannot regard any discontent which may possibly exist among junior officers whose promotion is less rapid than they hoped as in itself a sufficient reason for discontinuing a policy which is designed for the general good of the State.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

555 [III] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been called to an article under the heading of "A white man's exploit" published in the *Hindu* newspaper of the 6th December 1904, wherein a European first-class passenger is alleged to have without any provocation assaulted a Muhammadan third-class passenger?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state—

(i) whether the railway police inspector referred to in the article has taken any, and if so, what action in the matter? and

(ii) what has been the result of such action?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government have read the article.

(*b*) The offence was non-cognizable and the railway police inspector reported the occurrence to the magistrate in the usual manner in such cases. The Government have no information as to whether the Muhammadan passenger preferred a complaint before the magistrate or not.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

556 [IV] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been called to an article under the heading of "The Tramway in Chintadripet" in the *Hindu* of the 29th December 1904?

(*b*) With a view to prevent accidents caused by tramcars to children and others in the comparatively narrow streets of Chintadripet through which tramcars run, will the Government be pleased to direct the Tramway Company to divert the existing lines along narrow streets to broader and less dangerous ones?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to call for and lay on the table a statement of the accidents caused by tramcars and the places where these accidents occurred, since the introduction of tramways in Madras?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) The matter will receive the consideration of Government.

(*c*) The answer is in the affirmative. A statement furnished by the Commisssioner of Police is laid on the table.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

557 [V] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state what amount has been spent on account of the travelling allowance paid to the revenue officers in this presidency in connection with their tours during the past official year?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—The total amount disbursed during the past year was roughly 6¼ lakhs. This sum represents the amount paid to all officers in the Revenue department as well as to their establishments: and includes the allowances made on account of tentage and the charges for travelling on transfer as well as on tour.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

558 [VI] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to publish the correspondence relating to the scheme of appointments of Land Records Tahsildars and Land Records Inspectors?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—Government are unable to publish the correspondence.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

559 [VII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) what was the total mileage of roads within the jurisdiction of the District Board of the Gódávari district prior to the new territorial redistribution of the Gódávari and Kistna districts?

(*b*) what is the total mileage of roads within the jurisdiction of the District Board of the newly-constituted Gódávari district?

(*c*) what was the amount of the total income of the District Board of the old Gódávari district?

(*d*) what is the amount of the total income of the District Board of the new Gódávari district?

(*e*) what was the pay of the District Board Engineer of the Gódávari district at the end of the year 1903?

(*f*) whether that pay was increased, and if so by what amount at the commencement of the year 1904?

(*g*) whether in sanctioning the increase, the Government said that no further increase should be made without their special sanction?

(*h*) whether the pay of the District Board Engineer has again been increased in the last budget of the District Board, and if so, by what amount?

(*i*) from what date is this new increase to take effect?

(*j*) whether the previous sanction of the Government was obtained for this last-mentioned increase?

(*k*) whether there was any minute of dissent by any member of the District Board against the proposed increase?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The total mileage of roads in charge of the District Board of Gódávari at the end of 1903–1904 was 1,389.

(*b*) The total mileage is 729, excluding roads in Bhadráchalam taluk.

(*c*) The actual receipts of the Gódávari District Board in 1903–1904 were Rs. 9,63,680.

(*d*) The estimated income of the new Gódávari district for 1905–1906 is Rs. 5,50,570.

(*e*) The pay was Rs. 500.

(*f*) It was raised to Rs. 600—10—900 in March 1904 with retrospective effect from 7th October 1903, so long as the district remains undivided.

(*g*) The Government directed that no increment beyond the minimum pay of Rs. 600 should be granted to the Engineer without the sanction of Government.

(*h*), (*i*), (*j*) & (*k*) The budget for 1905–1906 now with Government contains no proposal for an increase in the salary of the Engineer.

The Hon'ble Mr. SIVASWAMI AIYAR :—

560 [VIII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) when the decision of the Full Bench of the Madras High Court, dated the 2nd December 1903, declaring the practice of levying prohibitory assessments to be illegal was brought to their notice?

(*b*) whether with reference to such decision the Government issued any instructions to the Revenue authorities in respect of the practice of levying prohibitory assessments?

(*c*) whether after the decision came to the notice of the Government any prohibitory assessment has been levied by the Government, and, if so, what is the amount of such assessment collected during the year 1904?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member's question shows some misapprehension of the case. The High Court gave a judgment declaring that the levy of penal assessment was illegal in one particular case which was before them. This judgment was brought to the notice of Government in April last and gave rise to the proposed legislation which is now before this Council. The Government have meanwhile endeavoured to protect communal lands against the encroachments which were encouraged by this judgment, but the instructions given did not and could not authorise recovery under Act II of 1864. The Government have no information as to the amount of prohibitory assessment which has been collected since April 1904.

The Hon'ble Mr. SIVASWAMI AIYAR :—

561 [IX] *Question.*—With reference to the reply to Question No. XXXV* at the meeting of the Council on the 29th November 1904 that the amount of the income-tax collected in the year 1902–1903 on incomes above Rs. 1,000 and below Rs. 1,250 was 2·15 lakhs and that the income-tax collected in 1903–1904 on the incomes of the same grade was 3·31 lakhs, will the Government be pleased to state—

* 538 *supra*, p. 185.

(*a*) the number of persons assessed in the said grade for 1902–1903 and 1903–1904 respectively?

(*b*) whether there is any explanation for the increase in the number of persons assessed to income-tax on incomes between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 1,250?

(*c*) whether there has been any similar or any and, if so, what increase in the number of persons assessed to income-tax in the grades above Rs. 1,250?

(*d*) whether in view of the recent resolution of the Government of India upon the administration of the income tax, the Government will be pleased to ascertain whether, and, if so, how far, the increase of the numbers in the grade between 1,000 and 1,250 is due to the transfer of persons formerly taxed in the lowest grade to the next higher grade?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—(*a*) The number of persons assessed on incomes above Rs. 1,000 and below Rs. 1,250 in 1902–1903 and 1903–1904 was 10,196 and 18,973 respectively.

(*c*) The number of persons assessed to income-tax in the grades above Rs. 1,250 fell from 22,197 in 1902–1903 to 21,751 in 1903–1904.

(*b*) & (*d*) The probable explanation for the increase is that the number of incomes in the particular grade has increased either by the prosperous circumstances of the period or by more attention of the servants of Government to their duty or by both, but a special enquiry into the matter has been ordered.

The G.Os., Nos. 793, dated 4th August 1903, and 788, dated 23rd July 1904, containing the income-tax statistics will now be placed on the table.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

562 [X] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that want of rain has been felt all over the presidency? Has the drought prevailing been so severe as to necessitate the organization of relief measures?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to note that encouragement to the sinking and construction of wells on private lands, both wet and dry, will be of great protective and productive value and order it to be given a place among proposed relief works?

(*c*) Will the Government be further pleased to direct the withholding of the collection of Government kists wherever there may be a complete failure of crops?

(*d*) Will it, at all events, be the pleasure of Government to order the postponement of the collection of the first instalment of kist and thereby grant relief to the suffering ryot?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—As other Honourable Members are asking similar questions with regard to the state of the season, it will be convenient at this stage to make a general reply.

The rainfall in and up to November has been generally deficient except in the Circars, the West Coast districts and on the Hills. The deficiency has been most marked in Cuddapah, Nellore, Chingleput and Kurnool. At the beginning of December the Government directed the Settlement Commissioner to visit the affected districts and particularly those in the Deccan, Central and Carnatic groups. The Settlement Commissioner has accordingly visited the districts of Chingleput, Coimbatore, South Arcot, Salem, Trichinopoly, North Arcot, Anantapur, Bellary, Nellore, Kurnool and Cuddapah. His reports show that though there will no doubt be a considerable failure of crop both wet and dry in most of the districts which he inspected, it is unlikely that it will be necessary to organise any measures of famine relief in the strict sense of the term.

The physical condition of the people shows no deterioration so far, and the labouring classes generally are not complaining of dearth of labour. Nor are there any signs of an increase in crime or of the other usual accompaniments of prevalent distress, while during the current month prices have been steady or have shown a tendency to fall. The Government are, however, keeping a vigilant watch over the condition of the country and, should necessity arise, there will be no delay in the application of measures of relief.

As regards the collection of land revenue assessment, it is probable that remissions of wet assessment will be necessary on a scale more or less extensive throughout the area wherever the rains have been short. The grant of dry remissions however will be generally unnecessary. The attention of the Collectors of the affected districts has been specially drawn to the instructions embodied in the Standing Orders on the subject of exceptional remission and they are taking the initiative in inspection without waiting for the receipt of written applications.

Collectors are also suspending collections in cases where it is practically certain that remission will ultimately be granted.

In Cuddapah a general postponement of the collection of the first two kists has been ordered on all rain-fed lands in seven taluks, and in Kurnool, the collection of the first three kists on dry lands other than those protected by wells has been postponed till March in the Markapur taluk and in various parts of six other taluks. In parts of two taluks in Bellary the January kist has been postponed till March. Similar postponements will be sanctioned by the Board of Revenue where necessary.

With regard to the Honourable Member's question about wells, the Government are aware of their productive and protective value and have frequently called attention to the importance of encouraging their construction by private enterprise by the liberal grant of loans. They are, however, not suitable as relief works.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

563 [XI] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the total extent of land which the Periyár project was calculated to irrigate and the extent which it has fully succeeded in irrigating up till now?

(*b*) If the full extent as originally calculated has not yet been brought under cultivation, will the Government be pleased to stop the further sale of tank-bed lands until the supply of water to the full extent of lands originally determined to be irrigated by the project is completely assured?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—(*a*) The total extent of land which the Periyár project is expected to irrigate is 126,955 acres and this area is estimated to be reached in 1909–1910. The area irrigated in 1903–1904 was 109,287 acres against a forecast for that year of 110,535 acres.

(*b*) The question of postponing the sale of certain tank-bed lands is now under consideration.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

564 [XII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the Odampokki, a branch of the Vettar river in the district of Tanjore, was not allowed its full or usual quantity of water in consequence of an alteration in the regulation of water tried as an experiment by the Sub-divisional Officer of the Public Works Department?

(*b*) Is it also a fact that about 100 villages near Tiruválúr which depend upon the Odampokki for their irrigation have suffered from want of water, the water actually let into the Odampokki having been mostly under the level of the lands intended to be served by it?

(*c*) Is it true that the representations of the Tahsildar and the Sub-Collector of Negapatam to the Public Works officers to maintain the proper and usual supply of water to the Odampokki were of no avail?

(*d*) If true, will the Government be pleased to grant sufficient redress to the villagers concerned and prevent the recurrence of similar experimental changes in the established rules for the regulation of water at the cost of the villagers?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—Government have no information on the subject. A report will be called for.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

565 [XIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it the fact that the rule enjoining a certain amount of touring on the Revenue officers in their divisions is a source of great inconvenience and worry to the people who, for the disposal of their petitions, their complaints and their appeals, have to attend the camp of the officers from great distances?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to restrict the touring of Revenue officers to inspection work, to prohibit the posting of cases for enquiry and of appeals when the officers are on tour, and to require them to stay at the head-quarters of their division for a fixed period in the month, previously notified, for the conduct and disposal of all enquiries, trials and appeals?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—The present system is no doubt inconvenient to some people, but it is also convenient to others. Government consider that the balance of advantage is much on the side of the present system.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

566 [XIV] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the article headed "The Tramway in Chintadripet" in the *Hindu*, dated the 29th of December 1904?

(*b*) Are the several facts alleged therein true?

(*c*) If true, will the Government be pleased to order the removal of the tramway line from the very narrow and inconvenient roads of the Town of Madras or to cause the danger to the public to be minimised by running the tramcars at slower speed?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member's question has already been answered by the replies to questions* on the same subject asked by the Hon'ble Mr. Krishnan Nayar. The matter will be considered by Government. * 556 *supra*, p. 192.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

567 [XV] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that, in Vániyambádi in the district of Salem, the Sub-Magistrate is the Vice-Chairman of the Municipality?

(*b*) If it is a fact, is it true that cases ordered to be prosecuted by him as the Vice-Chairman under the penal provisions of the District Municipalities Act have come up for trial before him in the capacity of Sub-Magistrate?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to order the removal of the anomaly of the same officer being the prosecutor and the judge in Vániyambádi and in other places where it may exist?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Sub-Magistrate is the Vice-Chairman of the Municipality. The Chairman of the Municipality orders prosecutions for Municipal offences. The Vice-Chairman is not empowered to order such prosecutions. Cases under the Municipal and Towns Nuisances Acts in Vániyambádi are tried by the Special Magistrate of the place, who is the Sub-Registrar.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

568 [XVI] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the institution of the Bench of Magistrates in the head-quarter towns of the districts has worked well and satisfactorily?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to extend the system to all the taluks where the Deputy Tahsildars have to do both revenue and criminal work?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) Benches of Magistrates are not constituted only for the head-quarter towns of districts.

(*b*) The Government are unable to accept the Honourable Member's suggestion. It would often not be possible to secure the services of suitable persons for a Bench.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

569 [XVII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it true that the Mahajana High School in Erode is open to all castes and classes of people and is under proper management, doing good work?

(*b*) Is it a fact that Erode is a small town incapable of maintaining two High schools?

(c) Is it true that Mr. Logan, the Inspector of Schools, was strongly opposed to the recognition of the London Mission High School in Erode?

(d) Is it also a fact that while so, the Mission High School has been recently recognised "provisionally"?

(e) Will the Government be pleased to state the reasons, if any, for so recognising the London Mission High School at Erode?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes:—

Answer.—(a) On the information before Government the Mahajana High School in Erode appears to be open to all castes. The work of the school is not considered to be "good" by the Inspecting officers.

(b) The question is one which is open to discussion.

(c) Mr. Logan in 1903 expressed the view that the Mahajana High School was sufficient to meet the requirements of the locality as regards upper secondary education. There is nothing to show that he was strongly opposed to the recognition of the Mission High School. His successors were of opinion that education would be benefited by two High schools.

(d) The fourth and fith forms in the Mission High School were recognised in 1901 and 1903, respectively. The sixth form was recently recognised "provisionally": the school was recognised in 1899 with the sixth as the highest form.

(e) The Mission High School was recognised on the recommendation of the officers who succeeded Mr. Logan, who were of opinion that there was enough room for two high schools in Erode. One of them was further of the opinion that the existence of the Mission High School was advantageous to the cause of education. Pending further investigation in regard to the future of upper secondary education in the town, the Mission High School has been, as the Mahajana High School is, recognised by the Director of Public Instruction only as a temporary measure.

The Hon'ble Mr. Srinivasa Rao:—

570 [XVIII] *Question.*—(a) Is it true that the sewage water from houses in the town of Kumbakónam is allowed to stagnate in many places all the year round and that the big canal made at great cost to serve as drainage to the town is unserviceable as it is not connected with the drains in the town?

(b) Is it a fact that schemes to drain some of the localities in the said town were sanctioned years ago and money borrowed for their execution by the municipality lies unspent without the schemes being carried out?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state why the schemes sanctioned long ago are not executed and to direct the Municipal Council to carry them out soon?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes:—

Answer.—(a) & (b) Yes.

(c) Schemes originally sanctioned were subsequently found unsuitable and estimates for a fresh scheme are under preparation by the Sanitary Engineer in consultation with the Sanitary Commissioner.

The Hon'ble Mr. Krishnan Nayar:—

571 [XIX] *Question.*—(a) Is it a fact that by reason of the total or partial failure of the north-east monsoon rains, great scarcity and distress prevail in many districts of this presidency?

(b) Having regard to the surplus of more than 80 lakhs of rupees as per the budget estimate for 1904–1905 and the prevailing distress in many parts of the presidency, will the Government be pleased to grant remissions of land revenue assessment in the districts affected by the drought?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member's question has already been answered in the reply given to the Hon'ble Mr. Srinivasa Rao (Question No. X).* * 562 *supra*, p. 195.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

572 [XX] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that when certain officers are appointed to officiate in higher 'grades' of their own 'class', they are entitled to an acting allowance of one-fifth of the pay of the appointments in which they officiate?

(*b*) Is it a fact that Deputy Collectors are not included among the officers who are entitled to this privilege?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to take steps to have article 140 of the Civil Service Regulations and Standing Order No. 119 (4) of the Board of Revenue, Madras, altered in such a way as to enable Deputy Collectors also to claim this privilege?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) & (*b*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*c*) The question was carefully considered in 1896 and negatived and Government see no reason to re-open it.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

573 [XXI] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state what are the gazetted appointments with reference to paragraph 8 of G.O., No. 644, Public, dated 1st August 1904?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the Assistant Surgeons who are employed as Assistants to District Medical and Sanitary Officers get an allowance of Rs. 50 in addition to their grade pay, while the Assistant Surgeons who are employed otherwise get an allowance of only Rs. 30?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the Assistant Surgeons who are employed as Assistants to District Medical and Sanitary Officers enjoy certain other privileges also which are not enjoyed by the other Assistant Surgeons?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to say whether it is meant by paragraph 2 of letter No. F. 30-Spl./9085, dated 12th November 1904, from the Accountant-General, Madras, to the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, that the posts of the Assistant Surgeons who are permanently employed as Assistants to District Medical and Sanitary Officers and the posts of other Assistant Surgeons are interchangeable?

(*e*) With a view to prevent hardship to the Assistant Surgeons who are permanently employed as Assistants to District Medical and Sanitary Officers, will the Government be pleased to declare that these Assistant Surgeons are not liable to be transferred to posts occupied by the other Assistant Surgeons?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The appointments referred to are the Civil Surgeoncies of Rajahmundry, Tellicherry, Chittoor and Negapatam, the Additional Medical Officer, Ootacamund, and twenty-one Assistants to the District Medical and Sanitary Officers. The Government have since decided that for purposes of audit, the appointment of Assistant to a District Medical and Sanitary Officer shall be treated as a non-gazetted appointment.

(*b*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*c*) The Government are not aware what other privileges are referred to.

(*d*) The Government have not seen the letter from the Accountant-General to the Surgeon-General referred to by the Honourable Member. The posting of Civil Assistant Surgeons is vested in the Surgeon-General.

(*e*) The Government are not prepared to make the declaration proposed.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATA RAO :—

574 [XXII] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to a leading article in the *Madras Standard* of Sunday the 30th October 1904, headed "The Results of the University Elections"?

(*b*) If so, has any enquiry been held to ascertain the truth or otherwise of the allegations contained therein?

(*c*) If no enquiry has been held, will the Government be pleased to hold an enquiry now in view of the recommendations of the Indian Universities Commission to invalidate the election of any candidate on whose behalf improper canvassing has been used?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—Yes. The Government have not held an enquiry and see no reason for doing so.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATA RAO :—

575 [XXIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Have the Government received a memorial from Mr. Oswald deRosario, the dismissed District Board Engineer of Malabar?

(*b*) If so, have the Government held any enquiry regarding the allegations therein contained?

(*c*) Will they please state what the result of such enquiry was?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—Yes. The Government have considered the memorial and the report furnished thereon by the President of the District Board. The appeal was rejected by Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATA RAO :—

576 [XXIV] *Question.*—Has the attention of the Government been drawn to several letters which have appeared in the columns of the *Madras Mail* of 20th, 30th and 31st of October last about the frequent transfers of hospital assistants? If so, will the Government be pleased to frame some rules to prevent frequent transfers?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—No correspondence of the nature referred to can be traced in the issues of the newspaper mentioned, on the 20th, 30th and 31st; letters on the subject appeared in the issues of the 25th, 28th and 29th.

Owing to the demands from many quarters for the services of hospital assistants, and to the occurrence of emergencies as well as to the necessity for transferring men to fill vacancies and on grounds of health and discipline, it is not practicable to frame rules such as are suggested by the Honourable Member.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATA RAO :—

577 & 578 *Questions*—577 [XXV] In view of the failure of crops owing to the failure of the north-east monsoon and the withering of some of the crops sown during the south-west monsoon owing to the failure of rains in August and September, will the Government be pleased to suspend kist collections in the districts which are affected by the failures of these periodical rains and also to order the Collectors of the said districts to grant remissions in all deserving cases?

578 [XXVI].—Will the Government be pleased to suspend the rule requiring written applications from the ryots wishing to have remission granted to them, in consideration of the extensive territory affected by the present bad season and of the ignorance and illiteracy of most of the ryots who have incurred total loss of crops or who have left their lands waste?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

577, 578 *Answer.*—The Honourable Member's questions have been answered in the reply given to the Hon'ble Mr. Srinivasa Rao (Question No. X).*

* 563 *supra*, p. 195.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATA RAO :—

579 [XXVII] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the suggestions of Diwan Bahadur Raghunatha Rao made in his letter published in the *Madras Mail* of the 9th instant?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to order that the village officials need not receive pattas annually from ryots, so long as there is nothing to add to, or subtract from, their holdings?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to order that no excess of revenue collections be made from the ryots, unless the extra assessment is noted in the previous year's patta, or the claim for such assessment is settled by the Revenue authorities under the Revenue Board's Standing Order No. 15, section III?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—The Government have seen the letter referred to. The Standing Orders of the Board of Revenue provide that as a rule fresh pattas need only be issued when desired by the ryots concerned, and that when a ryot's holding has undergone no change during the year a new patta is unnecessary. The Honourable Member is no doubt aware that the demand of the previous fasli is already taken as the basis of the kist collections. Excess collections largely arise from the fact that the demand so taken exceeds the current demand in individual cases. The rule proposed by the Honourable Member would therefore in no way prevent the evil of which he complains.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATA RAO :—

580 [XXVIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Are village officials put to the hardships alleged in a letter which appeared in the *Madras Standard* of 16th December 1904 headed "The miseries of the village officials"?

(*b*) If so, will Government be pleased to pass orders allowing them leave with pay not exceeding fourteen days in the year?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—The rules framed under Acts III of 1895 and II of 1894 provide liberally for the grant of leave. They were published originally in the *Fort St. George Gazettes*, dated 28th June 1898 and 9th November 1897, respectively: and amendments were subsequently published in the Gazettes of 30th October 1900 and 1st October 1901. The original rules and the amendments have also been published with translations in the District Gazettes. The Government therefore see no necessity for the issue of orders such as the Honourable Member suggests.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATA RAO :—

581 [XXIX] *Question.*—(*a*) Have the Government received a memorial from the ryots of Markapur in the Kurnool district praying for sanction of the project of connecting the Markapur tank with the Gundlakamma river?

(*b*) If so, will they be kind enough to state what orders have been passed on the subject?

(*c*) If the scheme has not already been put in hand for execution, will the Government be good enough to order the same to be taken up urgently as a famine measure?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—The Government have received a memorial an the project to which it relates is being investigated.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATA RAO :—

582 [XXX] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the amount of grazing revenue obtained in the Anantapur district during the years—

1901-1902,
1902-1903,
1903-1904,
1904-1905 up to 31st December 1904?

(*b*) If the revenue has been steadily falling year by year, will the Government kindly give the reasons for such fall?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to obtain from the District officers of Anantapur a report of the approximate number of cattle, sheep and goats disposed of at nominal prices by the people of the undermentioned 25 villages which adjoin the forest reserves in the Tadpatri taluk?—

1. Chillavaripalli.
2. Yollutla.
3. Nadimpallai.
4. Madugupalli.
5. Jangamreddipetta.
6. Karnapudi.
7. Googudu.
8. Kunukuntla.
9. Ramapuram.
10. Chillikondayapaliam.
11. Palayam.
12. Pethakotla.
13. Parlapalli.
14. Narjimpalli.
15. Latchimpallai.
16. Kothapallai.
17. Singavaram.
18. Goddumarri.
19. Thimmampallai.
20. Kodavandlapallai.
21. Bukkapuram.
22. Kuchivaripallai.
23. Kummanamala.
24. Maddipallai.
25. Daditóta.

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—(*a*) The grazing revenue in Anantapur in the past four years has been as follows :—

	RS.
1901-1902 (Forest year)	26,708
1902-1903 (")	19,801
1903-1904 (")	17,382
1904-1905 (July to November)	17,452

(*b*) The decrease in 1902-1903 was ascribed to the prohibition of goat browsing in forest reserves. In 1903-1904 the further fall, having been accompanied by an increase in the reported number of offences of illicit grazing, was attributed by the Collector to wilful connivance on the part of Forest subordinates. In the current year there promises to be an increase in the grazing revenue.

(*c*) The Government see no reason to call for the report suggested as the information cannot possibly be now obtained.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATA RAO :—

583 [XXXI] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state if any enquiry has been made by the local Revenue authorities of the Anantapur district during 1903 or 1904 regarding the cause of the forest fires in the Tadpatri taluk?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to state the conclusions arrived at?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—Special enquiries were made by the Collector last year into the causes of the large number of fires that occurred in Anantapur in April, but no definite conclusions were arrived at.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATA RAO :—

584 [XXXII] *Question.*—(*a*) Have the Revenue authorities of the Anantapur district information to the effect that a large number of cattle, sheep and goats were disposed of to the butchers of Bellary, Bangalore and other places within the last two years apprehending trouble at the hands of the forest subordinates?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to state the nature of the information and the steps taken to assure the ryots against such apprehensions in future?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—The Government have no information but have called on the Collector to state whether he or the District Forest Officer has received any such information.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

585 [XXXIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that in many parts of Malabar the second crop has failed owing to the failure of the north-east monsoon rains?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased—

(i) to order a special enquiry to ascertain the extent of the damages caused by the failure of the monsoon at an early date before traces of the failure of crops disappear from the fields?

(ii) to grant remission of the second crop assessment in respect of the fields in which the second crop has failed, as per paragraph 16 of G.O., No. 883, Revenue, dated 29th August 1900?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government are not aware of any failure of crop in Malabar. The latest reports show that the standing crops are fair, though they have suffered from want of rain.

(*b*) The Government are not prepared to order any special enquiry. The ordinary remission rules are in force in Malabar and the local officers will be guided by them.

The Hon'ble Mr. SIVASWAMI AIYAR :—

586 [XXXIV] *Question.*—(*a*) Having regard to the principles laid down in paragraph 26 of the resolution of the Government of India, dated the 11th March 1904, on Indian Educational policy, and to the resolution of the Madras Educational Conference of 1899, will the Government be pleased to state whether any steps have been taken to put a stop to the use of English as a medium of instruction in other subjects in Lower Secondary schools other than those intended for Europeans?

(*b*) Whether if no such steps have yet been taken, will the Government be pleased to take an early opportunity of giving effect to the resolution of the Government of India above referred to?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The resolution of the Educational Conference of 1899 referred to was as follows :—

"Resolved that, while this Conference thinks that perfect liberty should be left to "managers to adopt whatever language they please as the medium of instruction, "it is of opinion that managers of schools, other than those for Europeans, should "be strongly advised to adopt the vernacular as the medium of instruction up to "and including the third form."

In accordance with this resolution the following addition was made to the preamble of Chapter V of the Madras Educational rules in 1900 :—

"*Medium of Instruction.*—While managers of schools have perfect liberty to adopt "whatever language they please as the medium of instruction they are strongly "advised to adopt the vernacular of the pupils as that medium up to and including "the third form or seventh standard."

In the revised edition of the Educational rules which will shortly issue the statement that managers are at perfect liberty to adopt whatever language they please as the medium of instruction has been omitted.

The Hon'ble Mr. SIVASWAMI AIYAR :—

587 [XXXV] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been called to the article on the registration of hackney carriages in the City of Madras in the issue of the *Hindu* of the 16th January 1905 ?

(*b*) Whether the Government concur with the Commissioner of Police in construing section 157 of the Madras City Municipal Act to mean that the owner of a hackney carriage who applies to the Commissioner of Police for registration of his carriage and who not being the owner, possessor or custodian of any animals for use therewith is not liable to pay any animal tax to the municipality under section 150 or section 152, should satisfy the Commissioner that the tax imposed under section 150 or section 152 upon the animals that may be used with the carriage by persons hiring the carriage has also been duly paid ?

(*c*) Whether the Government are aware that there are several owners of hackney carriages in Madras who own and keep carriages only and let them out from time to time on hire to other persons who own the animals used therewith ?

(*d*) Whether if the Government do not agree in the Commissioner's interpretation of section 157, they will be pleased to issue the necessary instructions to the Commissioner of Police ?

(*e*) Whether if the Government consider the Commissioner's interpretation to be correct, they will be pleased to introduce an amendment in section 157 so as to obviate hardship to the owners of hackney carriages who may not also own or possess the animals or who may have bought the animals only during the current half-year ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government have now perused the article referred to.

(*b*) & (*d*) The Government are advised that the interpretation placed by the Commissioner of Police upon section 157 of the Madras City Municipal Act, is correct.

(*c*) The Government have no information on the point.

(*e*) The Government see no present necessity for amending the law.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

588, 589 & 590 *Questions.*—**588** [XXXVI].—(*a*) Is it a fact that in the district of Madura, out of the lands sold by Government in the Periyár affected region, those required for channels and roads were acquired under the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act, until a year or tow ago ?

(*b*) Is it also a fact that relying on one of the conditions in the sale notifications, the Government now require the purchasers to give back such lands on receiving merely a proportionate part of their purchase money ?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether there is any reason for such a change of policy ?

589 [XXXVII].—(*a*) Is it the case that purchasers of lands in Periyár affected tracts are required to part with portions of their lands for the purposes of roads and channels without compensation ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to direct that in all cases in which lands in the tract commanded by Periyár irrigation have to be taken up for field channels and roads after the purchasers have reclaimed the soil, a reversion may be made to the practice of acquiring them under the Land Acquisition Act on payment of market value and proper compensation ?

590 [XXXVIII].—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to order that the condition requiring purchasers to give up land for channels and roads on receipt of a proportionate part of the purchase money be omitted from future sale notifications of Periyár lands?

(*b*) If the Government be of opinion that such a condition must exist, will the Government be pleased to fix a short period not exceeding six months during which the condition may be in force, so as not to deprive the purchaser of the value of his improvements?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson:—

588 }
589 }
590 } *Answer.*—Before 1902 the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act were usually put in force when lands that had been sold by Government in the tracts under Periyár irrigation were again required for roads or channels. The specific conditions of sale render it unnecessary to apply the Acquisition Act in such cases, and instructions were issued accordingly January 1903.

The Government consider that the conditions of sale are equitable and necessary to safeguard public interests.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATA RAO:—

591 [XXXIX] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to inform what parts of the Bellary, Anantapur and Kurnool districts have been included as falling under the zone affected with insufficient rainfall?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson:—

Answer.—The rainfall has been in serious defect in the south-east portion of Bellary, in the southern part of the Kurnool district and in the valley of the Penner in Cuddapah.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATA RAO:—

592 [XL] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the result of the recent tour of the Settlement officer of the Board of Revenue in the districts affected with scanty rainfall and of his conference with the Collectors and their subordinates?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to depute the above or any other officer to make an enquiry into the present state of the ryots in the affected districts by conferring with the officials as well as the non-officials that are interested in, or acquainted with, the condition of the agriculturists?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson:—

Answer.—The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the answer given to Question No. X.* The Government do not think that any further special enquiry is called for at present.

* 562 supra, p. 195.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATA RAO:—

593 [XLI] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that people coming from places declared to be affected with plague are prohibited from entering certain villages and towns in the Kurnool district for transacting business or visiting friends and relations, unless they stay outside for some days, under medical or official observation?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to put a stop to such practices?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes:—

Answer.—Government understand that any action in this direction is entirely spontaneous on the part of the villagers. No interference on the part of Government is called for.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATA RAO :—

594 [XLII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to call for information or statistics on the following points in towns and villages declared as affected with plague in the Bellary, Anantapur, Kurnool, Salem and Coimbatore districts during the year 1904 :—

(*a*) What is the total number of plague cases that occurred in each of the affected villages and towns ?

(*b*) What is the number of houses ordered by the Plague officers to be evacuated in each of the said villages and towns ?

(*c*) What is the approximate population that was sent out of the houses compulsorily evacuated in each of the said villages and towns ?

(*d*) Number of sheds erected by the Government, District Boards and Municipalities for the occupation of evacuated persons in each village or town ?

(*e*) What is the sort and extent of relief granted to the indigent persons in putting up sheds for themselves in each village or town ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*), (*b*), (*c*) & (*d*) The Government do not understand what useful purpose could be served by the information asked for and are not prepared to order the labour involved in obtaining it.

(*e*) The Honourable Member is referred to rules 62 and 64 of the Mufassal Plague regulations.

18. MEETING OF THE 21ST MARCH 1905.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

595 [I] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be so good as to place on the table the report of the Hon'ble Mr. Castlestuart Stuart, the Settlement officer, regarding the state of the season and the actual condition of the people in the districts of Cuddapah, Kurnool, Nellore and Chingleput after his recent visit to them ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the impressions which he formed and reported are not in accord with those of the local officials of the districts ?

(*c*) If they are not, will the Government be pleased to state in what districts they are not ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) A report from the Settlement Commissioner dealing with the state of the season up to March 11th will be laid upon the table.

(*b*) & (*c*) As might have been expected, there have been differences of opinion in details between the Commissioner and some of the local officials. The Government see no reason for publishing any further information on the matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

596 [II] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that under the new Appellate Side rules of the Madras High Court, a single Judge in the Admission Court is empowered to reject a criminal appeal except when the appellant or a person tried along with him is sentenced to death ?

(*b*) Is it also a fact that civil appeals other than appeals relating to costs only from an original decree, are to be heard by a Bench of two Judges, whatever the value of the subject-matter may be ?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to direct that the rule regarding criminal appeals may be so modified as to secure to the appellant a final hearing before two Judges without the chance of their being dismissed by the Admission Court or by a single Judge ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The rules of the High Court in the matters referred to in the Honourable Member's question appear to be as stated, but these rules are made by the High Court under the statutory authority vested in it by sections 13 and 14 of 24 and 25 Vic., Cap. 104. Such statutory authority is subject to any laws or regulations that may be made by the Governor-General in Council and this Government see no reason to make any representation on the subject.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

597 [III] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the fees collected for translating and printing the records of cases in the High Court leave a surplus over the cost of the establishment maintained for the purpose ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement of the receipts and the charges under the above heads during the last three years ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) A statement showing the receipts and charges of translation and printing fees for the last three years will be placed on the table.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

598 [IV] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the translation fee per page of 24 lines of vernacular records in the High Court is 10 annas and that the payment given to the additional translators for each such page is only 6 annas ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to direct that no profit should be made in this branch of income or that the profit should be decreased to the greatest possible extent?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes:—

Answer.—Charges for the translation of records in civil cases are regulated by the High Court under section 652 of the Civil Procedure Code, and the Local Government have no authority to interfere. The charges for translations of criminal records are also regulated by the High Court by rules made under 24 and 25 Vic., Cap. 104.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO:—

599 [V] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it settled to have the head-quarters of Palladam taluk in the district of Coimbatore at Tiruppúr and to have a new taluk called Avanashi?

(*b*) Is Avanashi to be the head-quarters of the taluk of that name?

(*c*) Are the Government aware that Tiruppúr and Avanashi are only within a distance of seven miles and that people of the two taluks will have to travel long distances to go to the head-quarters?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes:—

Answer.—As indicated in the answers given on former occasions * to the Hon'ble Messrs. Srinivasa Rao, Vasudeva Aiyangar and Govindaraghava Aiyar, the scheme for the redistribution of district, divisional, and taluk arrangements is not yet sanctioned and the Government are not prepared to publish the details of the scheme.

* 400, 535, 536 and 543 *supra*, pp. 146, 180, 186 and 188 respectively

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO:—

600 [VI] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to call for and place on the table a statement of the fines which Mr. E. Scott, I.C.S., Collector of Anantapur, has imposed upon the clerks and the officers of the Revenue department within the last one year?

(*b*) Is it a fact that Mr. Ponnuswami Aiyar, B.A., Tahsildar at Gooty, who has been acting for Rs. 200 for nearly two years, has been reverted to Rs. 175 and one Mr. C. Venkoba Rao, B.A., on Rs. 150 has been brought in his place from the district of Bellary?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state the reasons, if any, why the Tahsildars in the district of Anantapur drawing Rs. 150 and Rs. 175 have been passed over?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick:—

Answer.—The Government have no information on the matters referred to. A statement of the fines inflicted by the Collector is submitted periodically to the Board of Revenue. The appointment of Tahsildars and their reversion from one grade to another are matters which are left to the discretion of the Board of Revenue and the Collector.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO:—

601 [VII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that in the estates of Kálahasti and Karvetnagar the last four years have been years of successive favourable season?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any and, if so, what amounts have been paid to the creditors of these estates during the last four years?

(*c*) Is it a fact that there is a sum of nearly 3 lakhs of rupees in the hands of the Decree Collector which may be made available for payment to the creditors? Is there any reason why this amount is not paid to the creditors?

(*d*) If there is no possibility of the creditors being paid, will the Government be pleased to direct the Court of Wards to withdraw from the management of the estates?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) In 1900–1901 and 1901–1902, the rainfall was insufficient, untimely or ill-distributed, and affected either the extent of cultivation or the outturn of crops or both, in both Kálahasti and Karvetnagar, and relief works had to be started in some parts of the latter estate; in 1902–1903 the season was generally favourable, while in 1903–1904 the rainfall was abnormally heavy and affected the outturn in both the estates.

(*b*) The debts repaid in Kálahasti and Karvetnagar during the last four years amounted to Rs. 77,799 and Rs. 1,99,906 respectively.

(*c*) & (*d*) The balance to the credit of the Karvetnagar estate at the end of fasli 1313 (1903–1904) was about $2\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs and that to the credit of Kálahasti about $3\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs.

The Government are now considering the question of utilisation of these amounts in the best interests of both debtors and creditors. They are unable at present to make any pronouncement as to the future management of the estates.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

602 [VIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that some years ago in the reports on the administration of Civil Justice, information was given regarding the number of cases in which the decision of a single Judge of the High Court was confirmed on appeal and those in which the Privy Council affirmed those of the High Court?

(*b*) Is there any reason why the information has been omitted in the recent reports? If none, will the Government be pleased to direct the information to be given in future?

(*c*) Similarly will the Government be pleased to order the information regarding the receipts from the Civil Courts and the charges incurred by them to be also given in future?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) The information regarding appeals from a single Judge on the Original Side has not been given in the annual Civil Justice reports since 1881, nor as to Privy Council appeals since 1893. The reasons why statistics on these points were dropped are not clear. The Honourable Member's suggestion that such information should be embodied in the future reports will be considered.

(*c*) With regard to the receipts and charges of Civil Courts, a statement was appended to the annual Civil Justice reports up to 1896. As this statement as given was altogether misleading in that it omitted a number of heavy charges, such as the salaries of officers only partly employed in the administration of Civil Justice, the share of the cost of the Stamp establishment and of the discount on the sale of court-fee stamps, pension and leave allowances, cost and rent of buildings used by the Courts, stationery and printing, and so forth, proposals were considered for revising it. But it was found impracticable so to amend the statement that it should afford accurate information on the subject with which it dealt, without at the same time imposing an altogether disproportionate amount of labour on those charged with its preparation. The proposals to revise it were therefore abandoned and the statement was discontinued from 1897. In these circumstances, the Government cannot see their way to carrying out the Honourable Member's suggestion.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

603 [IX] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the proceedings before the Sub-divisional Magistrate of Penukonda reported in page 3 of the *Madras Mail*, dated 3rd February 1905?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any and, if so, what notice has been taken by the District Superintendent of police regarding the conduct of the Station-house officer and the police constables in handcuffing the village munsif and the karnam of Morasalapalli in the taluk of Hindupur, if it is true that they were so handcuffed?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Government called for a report and have ascertained that the Police did handcuff the Reddi and Karnam while bringing them to the police station at Penukonda; and that the use of handcuffs was in the circumstances apparently unjustifiable. The Superintendent of Police is only awaiting the conclusion of the trial of the case against the Reddi and Karnam to take action regarding the irregular conduct of his men, as he expects the trial will enable him to discover the officer primarily responsible for the irregularity.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

604 [X] *Question*.—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the case of suspicious death of a prisoner at the police station in Tanjore city reported in page 3 of the *Madras Mail*, dated the 3rd of February 1905?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the Sub-Magistrate and the Head Assistant Magistrate have reported it to be a case of natural death due to excessive drinking?

(*c*) Is it also a fact that the District Surgeon and the Assistant Surgeon of Tanjore have reported the death to be due to hanging and that the posture of the body after death was inconsistent with death by excessive drink?

(*d*) Is it a fact that the movements of the deceased were being watched by the Police before his death and that his widow stated that he died in consequence of the beating that the Police gave him?

(*e*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the inquiry into the cause of the death has come to an end and with what result?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The attention of Government has been drawn to the case mentioned.

(*b*) It is a fact that the Sub-Magistrate of Tanjore held an inquest assisted by four jurors, of whom three were of opinion that the death was due to excessive drinking and one to some internal complaint. The Sub-divisional Magistrate was present at the inquest and has in a later communication expressed the opinion that death was due to excessive drinking.

(*c*) The death was considered by both the medical officers to be due to hanging, evidently suicidal.

(*d*) There is nothing to show that the deceased was being watched by the Police before his death. His widow has stated she was told that her husband had been beaten to death by the Police.

(*e*) The inquiry has come to an end. The complaint of the widow against the two constables who arrested the deceased is under inquiry.

The papers in possession of Government relating to the matter will be shown, if desired, to the Honourable Member.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

605 [XI] *Question*.—(*a*) Is it a fact that Vedampettu Perumal Nayudu of Villupuram, paying an income-tax of Rs. 125 and a kist of Rs. 3,000, submitted a memorial alleging that he was oppressed and ill-treated by the Tahsildar and the Sub-Collector at Tindivanam in connection with an income-tax enquiry which was conducted by the latter from day to day at indefinite hours in November 1904, and

praying for an open enquiry into the facts alleged by him stating that he would prove every allegation made by him and was prepared to take the legal consequences of failure to prove them?

(*b*) Is it a fact that during the enquiry the Sub-Collector directed Perumal Nayudu's vakil to write to his dictation in English a note admitting that he (Perumal Nayudu) was the cause of all the Tahsildar's troubles and would square them up, and expressing his regret and apology and that he was threatened to sign it, but refused to do so even if it was at the cost of his life?

(*c*) Is it a fact that Perumal Nayudu's clerk, who was in the Sub-Collector's office with his master's accounts for scrutiny, was fined Rs. 25 by the Sub-Collector for criminal trespass?

(*d*) If so, have the Government been pleased to order the investigation courted, and, if they have, will they be so good as to state with what result it has ended?

(*e*) Is it a fact that Perumal Nayudu has thrice applied for the return of his accounts and original documents, undertaking to produce them whenever necessary, and that he is not favoured with a reply?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) On the proposal of the memorialist's pleader to withdraw the objection petition to the tax, it is true that the Sub-Collector, as a condition of the withdrawal, proposed that the memorialist should sign an apology, the terms of which, as taken down by the memorialist's pleader, ran thus:—

"Expresses his sincere regret for having falsely and maliciously induced third persons to "prefer against Pampathy Sastry charges containing distorted assertions of what were "comparatively harmless transactions and I promise never to take part in such conspi- "racies against any Government official in future and express my sincere regret for "having done so in the past. I request that the Sub-Collector may be pleased to take "a lenient view of the matter and have pity upon my grey hairs."

The memorialist ultimately declined to sign this apology, but the Sub-Collector in no way threatened the memorialist with penal consequences if he did not sign.

(*c*) Yes. The High Court on an application by the clerk for the revision of the sentence declined to set aside the conviction or alter the sentence.

(*d*) The allegations in the memorial were carefully investigated and in the result the Government found that the memorialist had no real grievance in respect of the proceedings relating to the enhancement of his income-tax. The Government expressed their entire disapproval of the course adopted by the Sub-Collector in proposing to require an apology in the terms dictated by him or in the circumstances of the case.

(*e*) From a petition received in the Government Office from Perumal Nayudu, it appears that the Sub-Collector has informed him that his accounts and original documents are retained pending the disposal of the income-tax objection petition which the petitioner has filed.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

606 [XII] *Question*.—(*a*) Are any of the second-class magistrates of the presidency invested with the powers under section 562 of the Criminal Procedure Code?

(*b*) If they have been, how many and in what districts? Has the exercise of the powers by them been satisfactory?

(*c*) If so, will the Government be pleased to extend it to a larger number of second-class magistrates of the presidency?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer. – Six second-class magistrates have been invested with powers under section 562 of the Criminal Procedure Code in each of the districts of Cuddapah, Gódávari and Coimbatore; five in each of the districts of Vizagapatam and Ganjám; and one in each of the districts of Madura, Nellore and Guntúr. As the powers have been recently conferred, no report has yet been obtained as to whether the Sub-Magistrates have exercised the powers in a satisfactory manner. The Government are, however, prepared to confer the powers on magistrates whose character and experience appear to fit them for the responsibility.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

607 [XIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the Government of India have recently raised the age-limit to judicial appointments from 30 to 35?

(*b*) Has the period of service which qualifies for a full pension been correspondingly altered so as to enable a judicial officer appointed at the age of 35 to be entitled to a full pension at the age of 55?

(*c*) If not, will the Government be pleased to adopt the measures which will secure full pension to the judicial officers who will be employed at 35 but who will have to retire at 55?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—In the case of persons appointed to a judicial office in the Provincial service in this presidency, the limit of age prescribed by article 51 of the Civil Service Regulations has been recently raised from 30 to 35 years in the case of persons appointed directly from the Bar. Under the orders of the Secretary of State the pensions of such persons will be regulated by article 474 of the Civil Service Regulations and they will be exempted from the operation of article 478 (*a*) of the Regulations. An officer entering service at 35 will thus be eligible for full pension only if or when he retires at 60. No further concessions seem called for.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

608 [XIV] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the Collector of Coimbatore has issued an order directing the Tahsildars to be out in camp for at least seven days together when once they leave the head-quarters and not to return to it earlier?

(*b*) Is there a rule requiring the Tahsildars to inspect the treasury in their charge at least once a week?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to ascertain and state why the order was passed, whether it was an order for any special purpose or a permanent one; and if the latter to direct it to be cancelled?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government have no information on the matter.

(*b*) Under the standing orders Tahsildars are required to examine their treasuries not less than twice a month and every time they leave, or arrive at, head-quarters.

(*c*) The Government do not think it necessary to enquire into the matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

609 [XV] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the District Board of Tanjore applied to Government for sanction to open a railway line from Védáranniyam to Nídámangalam having resolved upon it at its meeting held on 6th February 1904 and that on the 1st of August 1904 it allotted a sum of Rs. 29,000 for the conduct of the preliminary survey of the line and the preparation of the necessary plans?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the District Board has been directed by the Government to give up this scheme and adopt a railway line to connect Mannárgudi with Kumbakónam?

(*c*) Is it true that the salt canal connecting Negapatam with Védáranniyam has become very shallow and is unfit for speedy and convenient navigation ?

(*d*) Is the construction of Védáranniyam-Tirutturaippúndi line less costly and more advantageous than the Mannárgudi-Kumbakónam branch ?

(*e*) If the answer to (*d*) is in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to direct the District Board of Tanjore to adopt the Védáranniyam-Tirutturaippúndi branch or the Védáranniyam-Nídámangalam line in preference to the Mannárgudi-Kumbakónam line now in contemplation ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) As the District Board seemed to be under a misapprehension as to the effect of a former Government order, the Government asked the District Board to say whether it would be willing to adopt the Kumbakónam-Mannárgudi line instead of the Nídámangalam-Védáranniyam line and the District Board replied in the affirmative.

(*c*) The canal between Negapatam and Védáranniyam is inconveniently shallow for the passage of heavily laden boats.

(*d*) & (*e*) Neither of the lines has been surveyed, but the Mannárgudi-Kumbakónam branch passes through a more rich and densely populated country and is believed to be the more advantageous.

The Hon'ble Mr. Srinivasa Rao :—

610 [XVI] *Question*.—(*a*) Is it a fact that three successive prosecutions were instituted by the late Chairman of Cannanore Municipality against a minor school-boy studying in a college outside Cannanore under section 221 of the Municipal Act for leaving stable-refuse in an open receptacle attached to the stable ?

(*b*) Is it true that, on the minor accused being acquitted by the Town Sub-Magistrate, the second prosecution was withdrawn by the Chairman and nevertheless the third prosecution was launched on the 27th of February 1904 by the late Chairman in the face of two resolutions of the Council, dated 13th and 23rd February 1904, to the effect that the minor owner was not bound to remove the stable-refuse and that such third prosecution ended in the acquittal of the minor accused ?

(*c*) Is it true that the Town Sub-Magistrate who disposed of the three cases against the minor accused has since been degraded to the position of Taluk Sarishtadar-Magistrate of Cochin ?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to state why the Town Sub-Magistrate was so degraded, and, if the Government are not in possession of the information, to cause the same to be obtained and placed on the table ?

(*e*) Is it a fact that three civil suits were filed for damages for malicious prosecution against the Municipal Council and the Chairman, and will the Government be pleased to ascertain and state how they have ended ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*e*) Towards the close of 1903, the late Chairman of the Municipal Council prosecuted one Kunhi Raman, a student of the Brennen College, Tellicherry, and a stable licenseholder in Cannanore, under section 221 of the District Municipalities Act, for keeping stable-refuse in a receptacle in front of the stable for more than 24 hours. The Sub-Magistrate, Cannanore town, acquitted the accused on the grounds that stable-refuse was not an offensive matter and that the accused was not the occupier of the building. A second prosecution pending against him was withdrawn the next day. The Chairman then on the suggestion of the Divisional officer inserted a condition in the stable license under section 188 (3) of the Act requiring that the stable-refuse should be removed once in 24 hours. An appeal was preferred to the Municipal Council against this under section 188 (6), and the Council in its resolution of the 13th

February 1904 cancelled the modification introduced by the Chairman in the license. When the accused was acquitted, Kunhi Kannan, as father and guardian of the accused, served the Council with a notice claiming Rs. 150 as damages. This the Council refused to grant, but directed in its resolution of the 23rd February 1904 that the stable-refuse in question should be removed by the Municipality free of charge every 24 hours. In the meantime the Chairman reported the facts of the above prosecution to the District Magistrate, and on the latter expressing the opinion in his proceedings, dated 27th January 1904, the stable-refuse was offensive matter and that the acquittal was wrong, he instituted another prosecution against Kunhi Raman on 27th February 1904; but the accused was again acquitted. The Government have information only as to the institution of one suit. The result is not known and the Government have called for the necessary information.

(*c*) & (*d*) The three cases were not tried by the same magistrate. One was withdrawn and the other two were tried by different Sub-Magistrates. One of these Sub-Magistrates was transferred on the same pay to Cochin; he was not degraded.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

611 [XVII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the bungalow placed at the disposal of Cannanore Municipal Council for plague purposes was let by the late Chairman to some Moplahs for the celebration of the Muharram last year without the knowledge or consent of the Municipal Council?

(*b*) Is it a fact that at its meeting held on 26th April 1904 the Municipal Council of Cannanore adopted a memorandum for submission to Government, disapproving of the procedure of the Chairman?

(*c*) Has any such memorandum been placed before the Government and have any orders been passed thereon? If not, will the Government be pleased to enquire why the memorandum was not placed before them and direct it to be done?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) & (*b*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*c*) A copy of the memorandum has been received. Government have taken such action as is necessary.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

612 [XVIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the waterman attached to the municipal hospital at Cannanore did not do any duties in the hospital for about a year during the period that Mr. Winckler was the Municipal Chairman and acting Civil Surgeon?

(*b*) Is it true that at its meeting held on 10th May 1904 the Municipal Council of Cannanore adopted a memorandum in that connection to be placed before Government?

(*c*) Are the Government in receipt of any such communication and will they be pleased to state the orders that have been passed thereon?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—A memorandum presented by six Municipal Councillors of Cannanore complaining that the Civil Surgeon of the place who was also Chairman of the Municipality was employing the hospital waterman to do private service at his house, and adopted by the Municipal Council at its meeting held on the 10th May 1904, was received by Government in June last. On enquiry it was found that, as Civil Surgeon, Mr. Winckler ordered the hospital waterman to do the duty of the peon and the peon to do the work of the waterman. The distribution of work amongst the menial servants attached to the hospital being a matter left to the discretion of the Civil Surgeon, the Government saw no reason to interfere.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

613 [XIX] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that as per the latest season report there is no water in more than one-half of the presidency, the crops are withering, the outturn is bad or positively poor, pasture is scanty, fodder is insufficient and prices of all food-stuff have gone high?

(*b*) Do the Government consider that the present conditions indicate impending famine and the necessity for opening relief works?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred for information as to the existing state of the season to the report of the Settlement Commissioner which will be laid upon the table.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

614 [XX] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been called to an article under the heading of "Government and Insolvent Zamindars" published in the *Madras Mail* of 1st February 1905?

(*b*) Is it a fact that Raja Venugopala Bahadur has submitted a petition to Government stating that he is a creditor of the Kálahasti Zamindari, that he holds from the Decree Collector of the estate certificates of claims amounting to nearly Rs. 10 lakhs, that the interest on his debt at the reduced rate of 6 *per cent.* amounts to not less than Rs. 55,000 a year, that since the assumption by Government of the management of the estate nothing has been paid to him either on account of principal or interest, that he is consequently in great difficulties and that Government may be pleased to take some immediate steps to alleviate his extreme hardship?

(*c*) Are the allegations made in his petition true?

(*d*) Is it a fact that there are other creditors also of the Kálahasti Zamindari who have not been paid anything on account of their principal or interest since the assumption of the management of the estate by Government and who have consequently been reduced to difficulties?

(*e*) Is it a fact that the Karvetnagar Zamindari also has creditors who like the creditors of the Kálahasti Zamindari have not been paid anything on account of their principal or interest since the assumption of the management of the estate by Government and who have consequently been put to difficulties?

(*f*) Will Government be pleased to take steps at an early date to alleviate the hardship to which the creditors of the Kálahasti and Karvetnagar estates are subjected?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) & (*b*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*c*) They are generally true.

(*d*) Certain other creditors of the estate have not been paid anything yet on account of principal and interest.

(*e*) Certain creditors of Karvetnagar estate have not been paid anything on account of principal and interest.

(*f*) The Government have now before them proposals from the Court of Wards for dealing with the two estates and hope shortly to issue orders upon the subject.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

615 [XXI] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that Deputy Tahsildars are required to be on circuit for at least ten days in a month outside their head-quarters and that when they are in circuit they are not entitled to any allowance?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to sanction the grant of an allowance to Deputy Tahsildars when on circuit?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) Deputy Tahsildars are required to be on circuit for not less than three months in the half-year, except on the West Coast where they are required to tour for only two months in the half-year. They are not given any travelling allowance

(*b*) The fact that Deputy Tahsildars were required to do much travelling was taken into account when their pay was fixed at the present rates: and it has been decided not to allow them travelling allowance.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

616 [XXII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that famine conditions prevail in many parts of the presidency, especially in the districts of Bellary, Kurnool, Anantapur, Cuddapah, Chingleput, Nellore and Salem?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to state what steps they intend taking to alleviate the sufferings of the poor people in the affected districts?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The Government are satisfied that famine conditions do not at present prevail anywhere in the presidency, and do not consider that at present any necessity exists for special relief measures.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO —

617 [XXIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that, by the resettlement of Guntúr, the net increase of revenue on the wet lands is 15 *per cent.* and the dry rates are raised by fully 22 *per cent.*?

(*b*) Is it also a fact that in the case of some wet lands in Guntúr, the enhancement is even 19 *per cent.*, and that the rates recommended by the Settlement officer have been approved of by Government?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the net increase by recent resettlement in Gódávari was 5 *per cent.*, and that in Masulipatam was 2 *per cent.*?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to state why the increase of revenue by resettlement in Guntúr has become so high when compared with Gódávari and Masulipatam?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) If the Honourable Member refers only to the delta tracts the facts are correctly stated.

(*d*) The reasons for the greater increase in Guntúr are partly that prices have continued to rise since the resettlements of Masulipatam and Gódávari and partly that the incidence of assessment in Guntúr under the old settlement was proportionately low.

As was explained by Government in their order sanctioning the resettlement proposal for Guntúr, it is wrong to compare the Guntúr delta with either the Masulipatam delta or the Gódávari delta as a whole. The closest analogy is to be found in the Gódávari Eastern delta, where the average assessment per acre is higher than that fixed by the resettlement in Guntúr.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

618 [XXIV] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that at this season, in former years—say within the last three years—the people and the coolies who daily emigrated *viâ* Tuticorin used to be on an average about 50 while the number this year is about 250 every day?

(*b*) If the figures given are incorrect, will the Government be pleased to state the average daily numbers that now emigrate not only at Tuticorin but also at the other ports of emigration in the Presidency as compared with the figures of the last three years or if this is inconvenient as far as it may be possible?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Government receive annual returns of passengers who embark from ports in the Madras Presidency for the Straits Settlements, Burma, Ceylon and of emigrants who embark for Natal, Mauritius and Fiji. The returns for 1904 are not yet available, but the figures for the three years 1901—1903 show that the daily average number of passengers who left Tuticorin was approximately 230 (and not 50 as in the Honourable Member's question). The daily average number of departures from all ports in the Presidency was 630 in the same period.

The Government do not propose to undertake the collection of special statistics for, the current year in anticipation of the usual returns.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

619 [XXV] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the town of Sivakási is a major union with a population of 13,000 people and is without a dispensary since the Mission dispensary was abolished nearly four years ago?

(*b*) Is it a fact that, in order to look after the health of the special punitive police of 100 persons stationed at Sivakási, there is a hospital assistant at work there?

(*c*) Will the Government be so good as to direct that a dispensary be opened at Sivakási or that the services of the special hospital assistant there may be made available to the people of Sivakási, so long as he is retained there?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) & (*b*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*c*) The proposal was considered and abandoned as recently as February 1902, as the Taluk Board and Union were unable to provide the necessary funds. A further report will be called for from the Taluk Board of Sáttúr. The suggestion in the latter portion of the question will be considered.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATA RAO :—

620, 621 & 622 *Questions*—**620** [XXVI].—(*a*) Is it a fact that the Government deputed the Hon'ble Mr. C. J. Weir to inquire into certain irregularities committed by Mr. B. Macleod, Collector of Cuddapah, in connection with the administration of the Indian Arms Act?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to state the nature of those irregularities disclosed in the inquiry of the above-named officer and the order passed by the Government on his report?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to place on the table the report and the Government order on the subject?

621 [XXVII].—(*a*) Is it a fact that Mr. Macleod confiscated a large number of firearms between March 1902 and July 1904?

(*b*) Did the Hon'ble Mr. Weir find any firearms missing?

(*c*) If so, how many were missing and how were they accounted for?

622 [XXVIII].—(*a*) Is it a fact that Mr. Macleod distributed some of the confiscated firearms among his acquaintances, official and non-official?

(*b*) If so, how many were so distributed and under what authority?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

620 621 622 *Answer.*—The facts are substantially as indicated in the Honourable Member's question. Mr. Macleod was severely censured by Government. The Government are unable to give any further information on the subject or to lay Mr. Weir's report and the Government order on the table.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATA RAO :—

623 [XXIX] *Question.*—Is it a fact that Mr. Macleod prohibited the Hindus, even last year, from celebrating in their own houses their Srirama Navami festival with music however removed they might be from the Muhammadan houses and places of worship ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—A copy of the District Magistrate's order will be placed on the table.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATA RAO :—

624 [XXX] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the Hindus approached the Government several times pointing out the illegality of the orders of the District Magistrate and praying for permission to celebrate their festivals in their private houses ?

(*b*) Did the Government order the District Magistrate Mr. Macleod to hold an enquiry into the alleged grievances of the Hindus ?

(*c*) If so, will the Government be pleased to state the result of such enquiry and to place the report of the District Magistrate and the Government order thereon on the table ?

(*d*) Is it a fact that Mr. Hakim Saiyid Sahib and his son Khan Bahadur H. S. A. M. Munjumiah Sahib, residents of Cuddapah, were examined at the enquiry above referred to, and did they give out as their opinion that there should be no objection to Hindus celebrating their own festivals in their houses even during the Muharram ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) & (*b*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*c*) The District Magistrate found that the established practice and custom in Cuddapah was to prohibit music during the Muharram ; but he added that, if circumstances altered through a great reduction in the Muhammadan population of the town, or from a greater spirit of tolerance, it might be possible to disregard the custom. The Government are not prepared to place Mr. Macleod's letter on the table.

(*d*) Hakim Saiyid Sahib Bahadur and Munjumiah Sahib Bahadur were amongst the persons from whom the District Magistrate took statements.

The former said : "Last year's disturbance was due to Brahmins' breaking the custom to publicly celebrate during Muharram. We do not object bhajana privately in houses."

Munjumiah Sahib Bahadur said : "The custom here is one or two centuries old. We do not object to Hindus privately worshipping then inside their houses. The Hindus willingly fall in with the local custom, and the authorities have upheld it always."

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATA RAO :—

625 [XXXI] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to an article in the *Hindu* of 21st January 1905 under the heading of "A farewell entertainment to Mr. B. Macleod, I.C.S." ?

(*b*) Was it given by his subordinates with the previous sanction of Government ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b* The answer is in the negative.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATA RAO :—

626 [XXXII] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state for how long the periodical Survey school for training karnams has been in existence in the Cuddapah district ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that every karnam, irrespective of his age and experience, is required to undergo Survey training and pass the examination ?

(*c*) Is it a fact that some of the karnams in Jammalamadugu taluk who have been holding the karnams' posts for a long time, and who have been also measuring lands satisfactorily, have not been paid their salaries for the last three months on the ground that they have not passed the Survey test ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) Survey training schools for karnams have been held yearly in Cuddapah since 1893, except in the year 1897.

(*b*) Every karnam is required to undergo training unless he has previously got a good or fair certificate.

(*c*) No : but the pay of some karnams whose outturn of survey work in connection with the revision survey was deficient has been stopped proportionately.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATA RAO :—

627 [XXXIII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state the number of cases prosecuted for offences under the Plague regulations, and the amount of fines collected in the said cases, in the towns of Bellary and Adóni, during the years 1901, 1902, 1903 and 1904 ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Government are unable to give the information asked for but will call for a report.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATA RAO :—

628 [XXXIV] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether in the village of Uravakonda, in the Gooty taluk, containing mostly Lingayats and agriculturists, there was only one toddy shop for many years ?

(*b*) Whether a second shop was opened in 1903 with the ostensible object of making the holder of the second shop compete with the first in selling better toddy ?

(*c*) Whether the residents of the said village objected to the opening of the second shop ?

(*d*) Whether in 1904 both the old and the new shops were rented out to one and the same person enabling the renter to defeat the original object ?

(*e*) Has the revenue from the two toddy shops in this village largely increased by renting them to one and the same person ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) Until 1903-1904 there was only one toddy shop in Uravakonda.

(*b*) A second toddy shop was opened in 1903. The ostensible object of opening a second shop is not known.

(*c*) The Government and the Board of Revenue have no information to this effect.

(*d*) In 1904 the two shops were purchased by one Imam-ud-din Sahib along with five other shops. In 1903 the same thing happened when G. Hanumanthappa and Mula Guleppah bought these two shops with the other five shops.

(e) The Government have no information in the matter. The seven shops referred to above have been sold together since the second shop at Uravakonda was opened.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATA RAO :—

629 [XXXV] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to order one of these shops to be closed ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—For the five years before the second toddy shop was opened the average monthly rental of the single shop was Rs. 795 odd, Rs. 200 *per mensem* more than that of any other shop in the district. According to the census returns Uravakonda contains 9,385 inhabitants, of whom only 1,179 are agriculturists by occupation. There are at least three towns in the Anantapur district with fewer inhabitants than Uravakonda (Penukonda, Anantapur and Kalyandrug) in which there are two toddy shops. The Government, on the information before them, see no reason to order one of these shops to be closed.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATA RAO :—

630 [XXXVI] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Collector of Anantapur has ordered the Deputy Tahsildar of Uravakonda, Gooty taluk, to make good the sum of Rs. 200 spent by him in constructing plague sheds under the sanction of the former Collector ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Deputy Tahsildar, Uravakonda, submitted on 31st October 1903 a bill for Rs. 335-6-1 for the construction of sheds at Uravakonda in July 1903. The estimate on which the bill was based was incorrectly drawn up as to details of work actually executed. After a final scrutiny the bill was passed for Rs. 258-2-8.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATA RAO :—

631 & 632 *Questions.*—**631** [XXXVII].—Is it a fact that the Collector of Anantapur refused to sanction the money spent by the Tahsildar of Kalyandrug for purchasing blankets and other articles for the use of the plague patients in compliance with an indent sent by the Assistant Surgeon in charge of the Plague duty ?

632 [XXXVIII].—Will the Government be pleased to state if the Tahsildar of Tadpatri built sheds for plague patients at Re. 1 per shed ; if so, whether they are according to the plague rules and regulations ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

631 }
632 } *Answer.*—The Government have no information on the subject.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATA RAO :—

633 [XXXIX] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the Collector of Anantapur sanctioned only Rs. 2 per shed for accommodating plague patients ?

(*b*) If so, whether the District Medical Officer and the Sanitary Commissioner have approved of such sheds ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The cost of plague sheds varies : in the Anantapur district the cost is reported to have almost invariably exceeded Rs. 2, being as high as Rs. 15 at Gooty and Pamidi. The Collector considers that the cost of sheds in villages can be generally reduced to Rs. 2 if timber from waste lands instead of patta lands is utilised. The District Medical and Sanitary officer has raised no objection to the sheds.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATA RAO :—

634 [XL] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to call for a return from the Collector of Anantapur showing the extent of assessed waste lands transferred to poramboke for forest purposes ?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to cancel such transfers in view that the forest reserves in the Anantapur district are already excessive ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The Government see no reason to call for the suggested return. The proportion borne by the reserved area to the total unoccupied area is smaller in Anantapur than that in any other district in the presidency, excepting the districts of Chingleput, Tanjore and Malabar.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATA RAO :—

635 [XLI] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Collector of Anantapur refused to sanction an expenditure of Rs. 2 made by the Tahsildar of Gooty under the orders of the Sanitary Commissioner for enabling a poor man to put up a shed having evacuated his house under compulsion ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Collector refused to sanction a cash payment of Rs. 2 made by the Tahsildar of Gooty as such payments were opposed to his express orders, experience having shown that such payments are improperly utilized. The Sanitary Commissioner has no authority to issue orders to the Tahsildar, neither did he do so in the present instance.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

636 [XLII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that Mr. M. Achyutaramayya was elected Chairman of the Rajahmundry Municipality by the Municipal Councillors and that Government acting on a letter from the Collector of Gódávari have disapproved of the election of Mr. Archyutaramayya and directed the Municipal Council to elect another Chairman ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that Government gave no opportunity to the Municipal Council or to Mr. Achyutaramayya to state what they had to say regarding the election of Mr. Achyutaramayya before the order disapproving of the election was passed ?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state how long has the officer who made the report forming the basis of the Government Order referred to been the Collector of the Gódávari district ?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to publish the report of the Collector ?

(*e*) Will the Government be pleased also to reconsider the decision which they have already arrived at ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) Government on the facts of the case disapproved of the election of Mr. Achyutaramayya.

(*b*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*c*) Mr. Braidwood who reported the matter was the Divisional officer in charge of Rajahmundry and was temporarily in charge of the district. His predecessor whom he consulted entertained the same opinions as Mr. Braidwood.

(*d*) & (*e*) The answer is in the negative.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

637 [XLIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the properties which belonged to the late Kunhi Kelappan Mannanar of Eravasi desam, Kanhileri amsam, Chirakkal taluk, Malabar district, have on his death been entrusted for management to Chirakkal Raja by Government?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state the circumstances which led to this entrustment?

(*c*) Is it a fact that Kunhi Kelappan Mannanar died intestate, that he has two children and that he has not made any provision for them?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to direct that some provision be made out of the properties entrusted to Chirakkal Raja for the maintenance of the two children of Mannanar?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The Government have no information on the matter, but will call for a report.

The Hon'ble Mr. GOVINDARAGHAVA AIYAR :—

638 [XLIV] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state what the average collections are per year made on account of voluntary irrigation cess from the holders of wet lands under the Cauvery channels in Námakkal taluk in the Salem district and how they are utilised?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The collections average Rs. 14,500 per annum. The amount is utilized on the korambus establishment and the upkeep and improvement of the channels.

The Hon'ble Mr. GOVINDARAGHAVA AIYAR :—

639 [XLV] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the reports of the Settlement Commissioner referred to in the answer given to question X * put at the meeting of the Legislative Council of the 27th January last?

* 562 *supra*, p. 195.

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The Government will not lay upon the table the various reports referred to, but, as already stated in reply to the question (No. 1) † asked by the Hon'ble Mr. Srinivasa Rao, a report from the Settlement Commissioner dealing with the state of the season up to March 11th will be laid upon the table.

† 595 *supra*, p. 207.

The Hon'ble Mr. GOVINDARAGHAVA AIYAR :—

640 [XLVI] *Question.*—(*a*) With reference to the answer given to question VIII ‡ put at the meeting of the Legislative Council of the 27th January last, will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of, or to state, the instructions given to their officers to protect communal lands against the encroachments said to have been encouraged by the Full Bench Decision of the Madras High Court on the illegality of levying prohibitory assessments?

‡ 560 *supra*, p. 194.

(*b*) Have the Government any information as to the actual or approximate amount of prohibitory assessment collected for the year 1904 and for that period of it since April 1904 and, if so, will the Government be pleased to give it and will the Government be also pleased to state how much of the said amounts was collected on account of encroachment on assessed waste lands and how much for encroachment on communal lands?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any processes were issued since April last for the collection of prohibitory assessment and, if so, under what law they were so issued?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to state what amount was collected for each of the five faslis prior to fasli 1314 by way of prohibitory assessment and how much of the amount so collected was for encroachment on assessed waste lands and how much for encroachment on communal lands?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick:—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) & (*c*) The Government have not the information asked for.

(*d*) The amount of penal charge collected for the occupation of lands set apart for public or communal purposes was—

		RS.
In fasli 1311	.. ..	2,39,000
„ 1312	.. ..	2,60,000
„ 1313	.. ..	2,87,000

Similar figures are not available for faslis 1309 and 1310.

Information as to the amount of prohibitory assessment levied on assessed waste lands is not available, but cases of such assessment are very rare.

The Hon'ble Mr. Muttukumaraswami Mudaliyar:—

641 & 642 *Questions.*—**641** [XLVII] Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) Whether the managers of estates under the control of the Court of Wards complained of the difficulty of obtaining correct returns in due time from the karnams in such estates?

(*b*) Whether such managers have, in consequence, been allowed to exercise the privilege of fining these karnams for their misconduct and neglect of duty under section 16 of the Madras Proprietary Estates' Village Service Act II of 1894?

642 [XLVIII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to order to be laid on the table a list of such zamindars and estate managers as have been empowered to exercise the privilege of fining under section 16 of Act II of 1894?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick:—

641 } **642** } *Answer.*—No general complaint has been received of the difficulty of getting returns in time from karnams; but in the case of the estates of Karvetnagar, Kálahasti, Arni and Sivagiri it has been represented to the Court of Wards that it is inconvenient for the managers to have to hand up village officers to the Revenue Divisional officer for every petty neglect or misconduct, and accordingly the managers of those four estates have been empowered under section 16 (1) of Act II of 1894 to fine village officers. The Regulation Collector of Karvetnagar and Kálahasti has also been empowered under section 46 (2) of the Court of Wards Act I of 1902 and section 16 (2) of Act II of 1894 to exercise in regard to the village officers of the estates all the powers of punishment which are exercised by Revenue Divisional officers.

No zamindars and no other managers of estates have been empowered to fine village officers.

19. MEETING OF THE 4TH APRIL 1905.

The Hon'ble Mr. VASUDEVA AIYANGAR :—

643 [I] *Question.*—(*a*) In view of the fact that the water-supply in the Cauvery has become uncertain and fitful of late, will the Government be pleased to state if the storage scheme to improve the water-supply of the delta will be taken up for execution soon?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to place on the table the details of the scheme?

The Hon'ble Mr. de Winton :—

Answer.—(*a*) There is no reason to believe that the character of the water-supply in the Cauvery has altered of late years, but with a view to improve and extend the irrigation of the delta an estimate for the construction of the Cauvery reservoir was submitted to the Government of India in September last with the request that the sanction of the Secretary of State might be obtained thereto. That Government have now called for certain information which is being collected, and pending the sanction of the Secretary of State, it cannot be stated when the project will be carried out.

(*b*) Government are not at liberty to place on the table the details of the scheme.

The Hon'ble Mr. VASUDEVA AIYANGAR :—

644 [II] *Question.*—(*a*) In what districts have the provisions of section 9 of the Village Courts Act, 1888, been brought into operation?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state if the report called for in G.O., No. 1552, dated 14th October 1904, towards the improvement of the Village Bench Courts has been received from several Collectors and whether the Government contemplate the extension of the provisions of the above section to other districts?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) A list of the districts to which the system of trial by Bench Courts under section 9 of the Village Courts Act has been introduced will be found in statement B-1 in Appendix II of the report on the administration of Civil Justice for 1903. The districts are North Arcot, South Arcot, Bellary, Anantapur, Chingleput, Coimbatore, the Nilgiris, Cuddapah, Ganjám, Kistna, Kurnool, Madura, Malabar, Nellore, Tinnevelly and Vizagapatam.

(*b*) Replies have been received from nine Collectors to G.O., No. 1552, Judicial, dated 14th October 1904. The further extension of the system of trial by Bench Courts will be considered when the replies from other districts have been received.

The Hon'ble Mr. VASUDEVA AIYANGAR :—

645 [III] *Question.*—(*a*) Are the Government aware of the existence of great difficulties in the diverting of water into the high level channels of the Trichinopoly district from the Cauvery for irrigation purposes even when there is sufficient supply of water in the river?

(*b*) Is it a fact that owing to this difficulty water-supply fails in one place or other every year subjecting the ryots to great loss?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to depute a special officer to investigate this matter and elaborate a scheme so that this evil is set at rest once for all?

The Hon'ble Mr. de Winton :—

Answer.—(*a*) & (*b*) Government are aware of the difficulties to which the Honourable Member refers, but they have been removed to a considerable extent by the recent improvements to the Upper Anicut, which is now capable of holding up water a foot higher than formerly.

(*c*) The supply to the channels will be still further improved if the Cauvery reservoir is made, and in these circumstances no further investigation is required at present.

The Hon'ble Mr. VASUDEVA AIYANGAR :—

646 [IV] *Question.*—In what districts are the resettlement operations going on at present? Will the Government be pleased to state whether these will be conducted solely with reference to the fluctuations in the prices of food-grains or otherwise?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—Resettlement operations are now going on in Salem, Tinnevelly, Kurnool, Guntúr and Nellore.

The principles on which the revision of the assessment is made must depend on the circumstances of the previous settlement in each district. Fluctuations in the prices of food-grains will naturally be the main factor for consideration as a rule, but not necessarily the only one.

The Hon'ble Mr. VASUDEVA AIYANGAR :—

647 [V] *Question.*—(*a*) With reference to the grant of 20 lakhs of rupees for the improvement of drainage of the river-irrigated portions of the Tanjore district, will the Government be pleased to place on the table the details of the whole scheme?

(*b*) Does the scheme include the drainage of the Trichinopoly delta also?

(*c*) If not, will the Government be pleased to order the investigation and improvement of the drainage of that district where the difficulties are considerably augmented by the submersion of cultivated lands by floods of the jungle streams from the adjacent uplands?

The Hon'ble Mr. de Winton :—

Answer.—(*a*) The scheme as sanctioned aims at improving the principal drainage streams such as the Palavar, Adappar, Nandalar, etc., and provides for draining the country in normal years, and in years of excessive rainfall it would allow of water to drain away at a fair rate so that damage to standing crops may be reduced to a minimum. In submitting the scheme to the Government of India, it was stated that its execution was proposed to be spread over 10 or 12 years, each portion of it being taken up in the order of urgency. Accordingly the estimates for improving the two first-named drainage streams, the Palavar and the Adappar, are now under execution. But in the course of progress of these works, investigations made have shown that the scheme requires revision which is now receiving attention. The Government are therefore unable at present to furnish the detailed information for which the Honourable Member has asked.

(*b*) There is no delta proper in Trichinopoly; the scheme does not embrace that district.

(*c*) The Government have received a detailed report from the Superintending Engineer on the causes and effects of defective drainage in the Trichinopoly district. Measures are being taken to remedy these defects and if the Honourable Member desires to have detailed information as to what has been done, it will be supplied to him.

The Hon'ble Mr. VASUDEVA AIYANGAR :—

648 [VI] *Question.* (*a*) Is it a fact that when the Bill to amend Madras Act VII of 1865 was passed into law, the Hon'ble Mr. Winterbotham said from his place in the Legislative Council that "not one inch of ryotwari land throughout the Tanjore delta would be affected by the aforesaid law"?

(*b*) Is it a fact that Government have now issued instructions to charge water-rates under Madras Act V of 1900 for crops which are not irrigated with water from the rivers of the Tanjore district but are supposed to be benefited by percolation? If so, will the Government be pleased to order the instructions to be placed on the table?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Honourable Member has quoted only a portion of a sentence from the remarks of the Hon'ble Mr. (now Sir) Henry Winterbotham, who when presenting the report of the Select Committee on the Bill to amend Madras Act VII of 1865 made the following observations:

The Bill will not apply to ryotwari land assessed and classified as wet, yet we have a crowd of Government ryots addressing us from Tanjore, Trichinopoly, Chingleput and elsewhere with entreaties that we will not crush them by enhancing the heavy assessments under which they already groan. One mememorial from Tanjore expresses the apprehension that if the proposed measure is passed "not even an inch of land in the Tanjore delta will escape the water-cess." It would be nearer the truth to say that not one inch of ryotwari land throughout the Tanjore delta will be affected by the Bill.

The Honourable Member will thus see that the meaning and effect of Sir Henry Winterbotham's remarks are very different from what he supposes.

(*b*) Government have ruled that the question whether there has been irrigation by percolation is one of fact to be determined in each case and have directed that in Tanjore where a plantain crop is raised on dry lands surrounded by Government channels and irrigation by percolation is found as a fact water-rate should be charged.

A copy of the instructions issued will now be placed on the table.

The Hon'ble Mr. VASUDEVA AIYANGAR :—

649 [VII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that there are narrow strips of land reserved for forest purposes on the right bank of the Cauvery in the Trichinopoly district very close to the cultivated lands of the villages causing great hardships to the ryots.

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to order the disafforestation of these bits and allot them for the grazing of the agricultural cattle of the adjoining villages?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member presumably refers to the padugai lands on the banks of the Cauvery which were reserved originally in 1871. Under the instructions issued in 1897 and 1901 District officers are empowered to allow villagers to exercise ordinary village privileges within a reasonable margin inside reserves if the boundaries of the latter adjoin village-sites or irrigated land. The Government are not aware that the padugai reserves are causing hardship and are not prepared to disafforest them.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

650 [VIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been called to an article under the heading of "The Tramway in Chintadripet" published in the *Madras Mail* of 11th March 1905?

(*b*) Is it a fact that as stated in that article two children died by reason of tram-car accidents in Aiya Mudali Street in Chintadripet?

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

(*c*) Is it a fact that as found in a judgment of the Black Town Presidency Magistrate published in the *Madras Times* of 25th January 1905, there is at present no contrivance in the mechanism of the tram-car to stop it suddenly for averting accidents ?

(*d*) Will Government be pleased to direct the immediate introduction of contrivances in tram-cars for stopping them whenever required ?

(*e*) Is there any sanctioned speed, and if so what is it, at which tram-cars are directed to run ?

(*f*) What is the actual speed at which tram-cars now run ?

(*g*) Has the attention of Government been called to a paragraph under the heading of "A fatal tramway accident" published in the *Madras Mail* of 20th March 1905 in which a woman of fifty-five years of age is alleged to have died by reason of injuries which were the result of a tram-car accident in the Wall Tax Road, and to the rider which the jury who assisted at the inquest held in connection with the death added to their verdict ?

The Hon'ble Mr. de Winton :—

Answer.—The attention of Government has been drawn to the article under the heading of "The Tramway in Chintadripet" published in the *Madras Mail* of 11th March 1905 ; and it is a regrettable fact that two children did, as stated in that article, die by reason of the tram-car accidents in Aiya Mudali Street in Chintadripet.

With regard to the enquiry as to appliances fitted to the Madras Tramway Company cars for the purpose of stopping them suddenly in case of emergency, each car is fitted with, in addition to the ordinary hand brake, a lever which reverses the motor, the effect of which is to bring a car running at 8 miles an hour to stand in a distance of from 16 to 20 feet. The sanctioned maximum speed at which cars may be run is 8 miles an hour, and the actual speed is considerably below this, especially in streets where traffic is congested. The attention of Government has been drawn to the accident referred to in the last paragraph of the question.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

651 [IX] *Question*.—(*a*) With reference to the answer to Question IV (*b*)* which was asked at the meeting of this Council on the 27th January 1905, will Government be pleased to state what consideration the matter has received from Government ? * 556 *supra*, p. 192.

(*b*) With a view to prevent accidents like those referred to in Question VIII † above till the matter of diversion alluded to in Question IV (*b*) ‡ asked at the meeting of this Council on the 27th January 1905 is finally disposed of by Government, will Government be pleased to direct the Tramway Company to reduce their speed and do such other acts as Government think fit ? † 650 *supra*, p. 226. ‡ 556 *supra*, p. 192.

The Hon'ble Mr. de Winton :—

Answer.—The question of diverting the tram line from narrow to broader streets is still under the consideration of Government, but as the interests involved are important and the question is complicated no decision can be announced at present. Allowing for the efficient means of control provided in each car the sanctioned speed of 8 miles an hour does not appear to the Government to be excessive.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

652 [X] *Question*.—Is it a fact that the Hon'ble Mr. H. M. Winterbotham gave an assurance that not even an inch of ryotwari land throughout the Tanjore delta would be affected by Madras Act V of 1900 ?

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

653 [XI] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that Government have issued instructions to charge water-rates under Madras Act V of 1900 for crops which are not irrigated with the water from the rivers of the Tanjore district, but which are supposed to be benefited by percolation ?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to order the instructions to be placed on the table ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member's questions have been answered already in the reply given to the Hon'ble Mr. Vasudeva Aiyangar on the same subject No. VI.*

* 648 *supra*, p. 226.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

654 [XII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the Superintendent of Police applied to the District Magistrate of Coimbatore to revise the proceedings of the second-class magistrate in one of two register cases discharged by him and to order the committal of the accused therein to the Sessions ?

(*b*) Is it also a fact that, by some mistake, the records of the wrong case were sent for, and the accused therein being ordered to be committed, the Sub-Magistrate committed them to the Sessions ?

(*c*) Is it true that, when the mistake was found out, the Public Prosecutor was asked to withdraw the case, not upon the ground that there was a mistake but for the reason that the District Magistrate thought there was not sufficient evidence in the case to warrant a conviction ?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to state if the accused in the wrong case were on bail or in jail as under-trial prisoners, pending their committal to the Sessions ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer (*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) The answers are in the affirmative. The reason which the Public Prosecutor was instructed to offer for the withdrawal of the case was a proper reason.

(*d*) The accused were under remand in connection with another case.

The Hon'ble Mr. SIVASWAMI AIYAR :—

655 [XIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that Government have issued instructions to charge water-rates under Madras Act V of 1900 for crops which are not irrigated with water from the rivers of the Tanjore district, but are supposed to be benefited by percolation ?

(*b*) If so, will the Government order the instructions to be placed on the table ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member's question has already been answered in the reply given to the Hon'ble Mr. Vasudeva Aiyangar on the same subject (No. VI).†

† *ibid.*

20. MEETING OF THE 14TH NOVEMBER 1905.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

656 [I] *Question.*—(*a*) The *Ceylon Observer* states that the arrival of emigrants in March 1905 was more than 12,000 as against 4,000 in the previous months and that they were chiefly recruited from the districts of Trichinopoly and Salem. Is this a fact?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to enquire if such large exodus in one month has had a depressing effect upon the agriculture of the districts in question and take the steps necessary to stop emigration in such large numbers?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government have no knowledge of the article in the *Ceylon Observer* to which the Honourable Member alludes. As stated in the reply given to the Honourable Member's question No. XXIV* asked at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 21st March 1905, the Government receive only annual reports showing the number of passengers who embark for Ceylon in a year from the ports in the Madras Presidency. The report for 1905 is due in April 1906, and the Government do not propose to undertake the collection of special statistics in anticipation of the usual returns.

* 618 *supra*, p. 216.

(*b*) The Government see no sufficient reason to institute the inquiry proposed by the Honourable Member. Emigration to Ceylon is free from all restrictions, and labourers are at liberty to go or stay as they may find to their own advantage.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

657 [II] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the article headed "Madras Cooly Emigrants" in the *Madras Weekly Mail*, dated 6th July 1905?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the emigration to Ceylon alone was daily 800 as stated therein?

(*c*) Is it a fact that in the month of April last no fewer than 22,000 crossed over from Tuticorin as against 5,000 in the corresponding month of the previous year?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to order that intending emigrants shall enlist themselves under their own names and that the license of a recruiting agent shall be withdrawn whenever he is found to have changed the name of a recruit?

(*e*) Will the Government be further pleased to direct—

(1) that the necessary order of a magistrate shall always be obtained in the taluk or division of a taluk in which the intending emigrant lives at the time,

(2) that before issuing the order, the magistrate shall publish the name of the recruit in his own village for at least two days,

(3) that up to the date of embarkation the nearest relations of recruits shall have access to them under the orders of the Protector of Emigrants and without the payment of any fees therefor, and

(4) that the recruit shall be at liberty at any time to withdraw on payment of the sum which the recruiting agent has actually spent on him, but without, what is now demanded, compensation for loss of commission?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government have now perused the article in question.

(*b*) & (*c*) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to question No. I (*a*).†

† 656 *supra*.

(*d*) The Indian Emigration Act, 1883, does not apply to emigration to Ceylon. As regards that Act the Government consider that the rules framed thereunder afford sufficient safeguards. If a recruiting agent working under the Act of 1883 changes the name of an intending emigrant, the fact should be brought to the notice of the Protector of Emigrants or the District Magistrate.

(*e*) (1) The Indian Emigration Act and the rules framed under it do not require that an intending emigrant should be registered in the taluk or division in which he resides. If a labourer wanders into another district in search of work and, finding no employment, offers himself to a recruiter as an emigrant, the recruiter can have the labourer registered only in the district of recruitment The registering officer should, however, satisfy himself that the recruiter has not been operating outside the district for which he is licensed and, if in the case of any labourer there are sufficient grounds for believing that such is the case, the registering officer would report the circumstances to the District Magistrate in view to the cancellation of the recruiter's license.

(2) The Government are unable to accept this suggestion.

(3) Passes are freely issued by the Protector of Emigrants to all relatives or friends of emigrants who desire them. No fees are charged for them. They used to entitle the persons to whom they were issued to free admission within the depot, but since January last admission within the depot has not been allowed with a view to lessen the risk of infection; and visitors have now to remain at the gate till the emigrant they wish to see is brought to them.

(4) The terms on which the discharge of an emigrant can be obtained is a matter for private arrangement between the parties. So far as the Government are aware, the agents are not unreasonable in their demands.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

658 [III] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the papers relating to the starting of a Textile school at Madura and the correspondence between the Madras Government and the Government of India on the subject?

(*b*) Will they be so good as to open a Textile school at Madura for imparting instruction in weaving and dyeing to the artizan classes of the presidency?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to purchase a few dozens of Japanese looms and fly-shuttles and cause their working to be explained in the districts where weaving is carried on largely?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) There has been no correspondence between this Government and the Government of India on the subject of starting a Textile school at Madura.

(*b*) The question of opening a factory for the trial and introduction of improved hand-looms and other weaving appliances is now under the consideration of Government, but the selection of the town in which the school should be located has not yet been finally made.

(*c*) The Government will consider the Honourable Member's suggestion.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

659 [IV] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the leader headed "Tramway Peril in Chintadripet" published in the *Hindu*, dated 6th June 1905?

(*b*) Has any memorial by the residents of Chintadripet been before Government regarding their grievances in respect of the tramway and have any orders been passed thereon?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the tramcars, as they now are, have no mechanism to stop them instantaneously in cases of emergency?

(*d*) Is it a fact that the Senior Presidency Magistrate, Madras, tried it as an experiment and found out that it was impossible to stop the car instantaneously?

(*e*) If the answers to (*c*) and (*d*) are in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to direct the Tramcar Company to take early steps of providing their cars with the required mechanism or contrive to avert the danger in some other feasible manner?

The Hon'ble Mr. de Winton:—

Answer.—(*a*) The attention of Government has been drawn to the leader headed "The Tramway Peril" in Chintadripet.

(*b*) Government received a memorial from the residents of Chintadripet in which they made the following suggestions:—

(1) The diversion of the tramway from Iyah Mudali and Sami Naik streets to less congested roads.

(2) The provision in the cars of better appliances for stopping them.

(3) A reduction in the speed of tramcars.

(4) The prohibition of the employment as drivers of men who are not trained for the work.

The memorialists have been informed with regard to the first of these suggestions that the Government have no power to order the Tramway Company to divert the line in question to other streets, and with regard to (2) that Government consider that the appliances now in use for stopping the cars are sufficient for the purpose. With regard to (3) orders are about to be issued reducing the maximum speed to six miles an hour. The question of prohibiting the employment of drivers unless they are certificated is still under the consideration of Government.

(*c*), (*d*) & (*e*) The Honourable Member's questions have been answered already in the reply given to the Hon'ble Mr. Krishnan Nayar at the last meeting of the Council (No. VIII).*

* 650 supra p. 226.

The Hon'ble Mr. Srinivasa Rao:—

660 [V] *Question*.—(*a*) Is it a fact that, in the inam villages of the district of **Madura**, water-rates are collected on mamúl or faisal nanja lands?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is legal to do so, and, if it is not legal, will the Government be so good as to direct the collection of such rates to be discontinued?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick:—

Answer.—The Government have no information as to the practice referred to, but will make enquiries.

The Hon'ble Mr. Srinivasa Rao:—

661 [VI] *Question*.—(*a*) Is the Presidency of Madras capable of manufacturing the entire quantity of salt required for its consumption?

(*b*) Does it actually produce it, and, if not, why not?

(*c*) Is Madras salt able to compete with Bombay salt, and, if not, why not?

(*d*) Have the discontinuance of the excise system and the establishment of the monopoly system in parts of the presidency had any effect on the competition between the two salts?

(*e*) Is it by any means possible to stop the import of Bombay salt into Madras and make Madras self-supporting?

(*f*) Are the factories at Ennore capable of producing the quantity required for half the presidency as also the quantity now imported from Bombay?

(*g*) If not, what fraction of the demand of the presidency will the Ennore factories be able to meet?

(*h*) Is it a fact that the Ennore salt gets crushed by its transit in boats to Madras and thereby suffers in quality and weight?

(*i*) Is it possible by any means to avoid the storage of Ennore salt in the Madras Salt depot?

(*j*) Will the storage of salt in a central place between Attiput and Vayalur near Minjur prevent the crushing of the salt and make it sell cheaper?

(*k*) Will the opening of a tramway to Ennore be possible, and will this secure the end of getting the Madras salt sell cheaper and of its successfully competing with the Bombay salt?

(*l*) If the answer to (*k*) is in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to undertake the opening of a tramway to Ennore or sanction its being opened by a private firm?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—It is impossible to answer the Honourable Member's questions satisfactorily except by a lengthy dissertation on the whole policy of Madras Salt administration, for which this is not the proper occasion. The specific answers to the Honourable Member's enquiries are as follows :—

(*a*) & (*b*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*c*) The explanation of the fact that Madras salt does not compete with Bombay salt in certain localities is mainly trade preference and enterprise.

(*d*) The answer is in the negative.

(*e*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*f*) The answer is in the negative.

(*g*) About 23 per cent. of the demand.

(*h*) It is a fact that the crystals get crushed to some extent, but the quality is not affected nor is the weight apart from wastage.

(*i*) Yes, by storing at the factories themselves.

(*j*) (*k*) & (*l*) The answer is in the negative.

The Hon'ble Mr. Srinivasa Rao :—

662 [VII] *Question*.—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the leader styled "Another Hard Case" in the *Hindu*, dated 12th June 1905?

(*b*) Is it a fact that an influentially-signed memorial was addressed to Government on behalf of the person who had put in 22 years of good service under Government?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to reconsider the case and either restore the Assistant Inspector in question or else permit him to retire?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—The Government have seen the article referred to. A memorial on behalf of S. Krishnaswami Aiyar was received by Government in February last. It was signed by some 40 merchants and licensees of salt factories in Tinnevelly district. The case has already received from Government very careful and full consideration and they are not disposed to reopen it.

The Hon'ble Mr. Srinivasa Rao :—

663 [VIII] *Question*.—(*a*) Is it a fact that the Kodingal channel in Kulittalai taluk, Trichinopoly district, has got greatly silted up and overgrown with trees to the obstruction of the flow of water in it?

(*b*) Is it true that its banks have become so eroded that, during the floods, there are heavy breaches and consequent damages to the fields and the crops thereon?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to direct that the channel be repaired properly and loss to people avoided?

The Hon'ble Mr. de Winton :—

Answer.—The channel is not in a satisfactory condition. The Superintending Engineer is now engaged on a report dealing with this channel, and until it is received Government are not in a position to say what the actual condition of the channel is, or whether it can be improved in such a manner as to render it entirely satisfactory.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

664 [IX] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the villages supplied by the Marudur channel in Kulittalai taluk, Trichinopoly district, do not receive their proper supply of water in consequence of the channel silting up abnormally and thereby obstructing the even flow of water in it?

(*b*) Is it also a fact that the one sand-escape is not sufficient to keep the channel free from silt and that the construction of two or more sand-escapes in places like Valayapalayam and Kulittalai will successfully prevent the silting up of the channel?

(*c*) If so, will the Government be pleased to direct the construction of the additional sand-escapes instead of allowing heavy expenditure on silt clearances?

The Hon'ble Mr. de Winton :—

Answer.—(*a*) The first four miles of the Marudur channel have been cleared this year by the Public Works Department, and observations will be taken with a view to ascertaining the rate at which silt is deposited. There is no evidence to show that the silting and difficulties with the water-supply are abnormal.

(*b*) & (*c*) There are two sand-escapes on the channel, one at the head and the other five and a half miles below it. From a report received from the Superintending Engineer it seems possible that these escapes may be rendered more efficient and estimates will be prepared. Additional escapes are not considered necessary.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

665 [X] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it true that the taluks of Karúr and Námakkal are to be added to the district of Trichinopoly?

(*b*) Is it a fact that Karúr is proposed to be added to Kulittalai and Námakkal to Musiri?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to have Kulittalai and Musiri as one taluk and Karúr and Námakkal as another taluk?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) The changes mentioned are contemplated, but no final decision has yet been reached.

(*b*) It has been proposed to constitute Karúr and Kulittalai one division and Námakkal and Musiri another division.

(*c*) The Government do not think that the proposal would be advantageous, as the river Cauvery which is not bridged between Erode and Trichinopoly would have to be crossed to reach Karúr from Námakkal and reach Musiri from Kulittalai.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

666 [XI] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the District Court Sarishtadar of Bellary is over 60 years of age now and has had four extensions of service given to him already?

(*b*) Is it true that there is an application to Government on his behalf for a further year's extension?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The Sarishtadar of the District Court, Bellary, M.R.Ry. G. Balaji Sing, completed his 60th year on the 30th June 1905. As in the opinion of the Government he is physically and mentally fit to perform his work efficiently, the Government have sanctioned his retention in service until the 30th June 1906 if he should so long continue efficient. They see no reason to reconsider these orders.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

667 [XII] *Question*.—(*a*) Is there an application by the Madras Railway before Government to acquire the places covered by the Megasken Street, Chembada Pillaiyar Street, Mint Street entrance from Memorial Hall, Wall Tax Road up to Post Office and John Pereira's Road?

(*b*) Is there before Government a memorial by the 3,000 residents of the above streets setting forth their grievances and protesting against the granting of the locality applied for by the Madras Railway?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to consider the memorial favourably and direct the Railway Company to take up lands at Basin Road or at Mulakothalam, which are equally suitable for their purposes, without inconvenience to the memorialists?

The Hon'ble Mr. de Winton :—

Answer—(*a*) The Madras Railway Company has submitted proposals to Government for the construction of new general offices near the Central Station in Madras.

(*b*) A petition has been received protesting against the locality selected by the Madras Railway.

(*c*) Before sanction is accorded to the acquisition of the land required for the site of the new offices, the objections put forward by the memorialists wil have the full consideration of Government, who as at present advised are unable to agree with the Honourable Member that the lands at Basin Bridge or at Mulakothalam are equally suitable for the purpose.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

668 [XIII] *Question*.—(*a*) Is it a fact that, for the work turned out by the District Munsifs of the presidency, the initial pay of Rs. 200 a month is small?

(*b*) Is it also a fact that the District Munsifs as a class are overworked and are forced to leave large arrears of work in spite of the high strain they put upon it?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to raise their starting pay to Rs. 300 and also increase the number of District Munsifs in the presidency?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The Government do not consider any rise in the initial salary of Munsifs required. Where the number of cases proves to be too much for the existing courts to dispose of, the High Court recommends the establishment of temporary Munsifs' Courts.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

669 [XIV] *Question*.—In connection with the recent outbreak of severe cholera in the City of Madras, will the Government be pleased to give information on—

(*a*) the number of persons that emigrated into Madras from the adjoining districts,

(*b*) the state of crime in them,
(*c*) the state of public health then, and
(*d*) the condition of the cattle in them?

(e) Is it a fact that dacoities have increased in the districts of Nellore an Cuddapah ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(a) The Government have no definite information as to the number of people who entered Madras from adjoining districts, but the most probable estimate is that about four thousand persons came into the City from Chingleput, Nellore and North Arcot.

(b) & (e) Statistics on these points are not as yet available.

(c) The Honourable Member is referred to the weekly returns of deaths in the City which are published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* and to the monthly returns of births and deaths in the districts which are similarly published.

(d) The condition of the cattle in those districts was reported to be generally good at the time to which the question relates.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

670 [XV] *Question*.—(a) Will the Government be pleased to state the principle which regulates the prices fixed upon the publications issued from the Government Press ?

(b) Will they be so good as to state why pamphlets of a few pages are charged at eight annas and twelve annas ?

(c) What has been the annual income derived from the sale of the publications from the Government Press within the last six years.

(d) Will the Government be pleased to make their publications from the Government Press available free of cost or put upon them a nominal value—as nominal as that of the District Gazette ?

(e) Will the Government be further pleased to direct all agricultural, industrial and other technical bulletins to be translated into the vernaculars, published in the District Gazettes and distributed free of cost ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The prices of manuals and similar publications are based on the actual cost of production *plus* a percentage for the commission allowed to the agents for the sale of Government publications. Government proceedings placed at the disposal of the Press are sold at a uniform rate of one anna for every eight pages or fraction thereof. This is below the cost price. Acts and Bills are also sold at a low rate (irrespective of cost) based on the number of pages. Differences of price will thus arise with reference to the number of copies printed. The gross receipts from sales have been in—

Year.	RS.
1899–1900	47,746
1900–1901	42,074
1901–1902	45,246
1902–1903	43,391
1903–1904	47,490
1904–1905	46,846

The total receipts, however, have not covered the total cost and there has consequently been a loss, not a profit. The cost of publications from the Government Press is in most cases already nominal as compared with similar publications issued by the private firms. The Government are not prepared to issue such publications free of cost.

The Government cannot promise to publish vernacular translations of all agricultural, industrial and other technical bulletins, but the more important of them are already being published in the chief vernaculars and issued in the village sheets of the Gazettes.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATA RAO :—

671 [XVI] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that early in October last a native patient died at the residence of Major R. H. Elliot, I.M.S., from the effects of chloroform?

(*b*) Is it a fact that an inquest was held on that death and that the Commissioner of Police has declined to permit the evidence of witnesses at the inquest to be published in the lay or medical papers?

(*c*) If it is true that the Commissioner of Police did decline to permit the publication of such evidence even in a purely medical paper, what is the object of enforcing such secrecy as to what transpires at an inquest?

(*d*) Was a *post-mortem* examination held on this patient before inquest?

(*e*) If not, will the Government be pleased to say why it was not so held?

(*f*) Will the Government be pleased to obtain the opinion of Surgeon-General Browne on the evidence given at this inquest and to lay it before the Council?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer to the question is in the affirmative.

(*b*) & (*c*) An inquest was held. The Commissioner of Police did not decline to permit the evidence of the witnesses at the inquest to be published in the lay or medical papers. A representative of the *Madras Times* and one N. Rama Rao, who said that he represented a medical journal, were allowed by the Commissioner of Police to take notes from the proceedings recorded at the inquest. No other applications for information were made to the Commissioner of Police.

(*d*) The answer is in the negative.

(*e*) The Presidency District Surgeon who attended the inquest considered a *post-mortem* examination unnecessary as it would probably disclose nothing. The Surgeon-General has been consulted and saw no reason to differ from this opinion. *Post-mortem* examinations are always painful to the relatives of the deceased, especially if natives of India. In the present case the deceased was a Marwari of Hyderabad.

(*f*) The Government have read the evidence and do not consider it necessary to lay the opinion of Surgeon-General Browne on the table.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATA RAO :—

672 [XVII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the Crown Prosecutor asked the Government for the services of a Commissioned Medical Officer to help him in conducting the prosecution of Mr. Lee, the Travancore planter, before the Criminal Sessions of the Madras High Court in September last?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to say why he was not given the help he wanted?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer—The Crown Prosecutor enquired to whom he could resort for expert medical opinion in the case. The Government suggested three I.M.S. officers, but the Crown Prosecutor decided not to call any one of them as a witness.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATA RAO :—

673 [XVIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that a large number of cholera cases broke out in the Natal emigration depot at Ráyapuram on the 17th July last?

(*b*) Is it a fact that, on the advice of the Medical Inspector of Emigrants, the coolies were removed from the depot into quarantine camps the following day, viz., 18th July?

(*c*) Is it a fact that in the course of such removal a large number of coolies escaped from the depot and dispersed themselves into different parts of the City of Madras?

(*d*) To prevent such accidents in future, will the Government be pleased to remove the emigration depots to some less populous part using, if necessary, the power vested in them by Chapter II, Section 7, sub-section (3) of the Indian Emigration Act by extending the boundaries of the port of Madras?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick:—

Answer.—(*a*) There were nine cases of cholera among the emigrants in the Natal emigration depot on the 17th July 1905.

(*b*) The emigrants were removed from the main Natal emigration depot on the 19th and 20th July.

(*c*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*d*) The Government see no sufficient reason to direct the removal of the depots from their present sites. They do not consider that any greater danger arises from such occurrences than from the free movement of the population in a time of epidemic. On the contrary as the emigrants are under medical supervision, the depots are likely to be less dangerous centres of infection than most parts of the town.

The Hon'ble Mr. Venkata Rao:—

674 [XIX] *Question*.—(*a*) Is it a fact that the emigration sub-depots in Madras are not under any special medical inspector?

(*b*) If so, is it not against the notification of the Government of India, dated 18th March 1896, regarding medical control over them?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick:—

Answer.—Sub-depots are places of accommodation provided by recruiters for emigrants who await their removal to the main depots established by the emigration agents, and are not required under the rules to be periodically inspected by medical officers, but a report has to be made to the medical authorities of any case of contagious disease occurring in a sub-depot. The Commissioner of Police, however, arranges for the inspection of the sub-depots in the Madras City at least once a week by an inspector of the City police.

The Hon'ble Mr. Venkata Rao:—

675 [XX] *Question*.—(*a*) Is it a fact that a boy, named Perumal *alias* Peruman, aged 5, and a cooly, named Iyakannu, aged 25, were attacked with cholera at the Natal emigration depot at Ráyapuram on the 17th July 1905 and that both of them were kept in the depot till 20th July 1905 when they died there?

(*b*) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether the procedure did not contravene the notification of the Government of India, dated 18th March 1896, paragraph 68, which says that "In the event of cholera, small-pox or other dangerous "communicable diseases appearing in the depot, every emigrant or dependant "attacked shall *immediately* be sent to an outside hospital for treatment"?

(*c*) If the answers to clauses (*a*) and (*b*) be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state whether they have taken any action in the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick:—

Answer.—(*a*) The individuals referred to were taken ill on the 17th July and died of cholera in the depot on the 20th July.

(*b*) The disease was not diagnosed as cholera till the 18th July, when it was ordered that all who could should be removed to the hospital. In certain cases the condition of the patients was such that they could not be moved. Their retention in the depot did not tend to spread the disease there as the isolation sheds are at a distance from the portion of the depot set apart for the ordinary accommodation of emigrants.

(c) Under the rule quoted by the Honourable Member in clause (b) of the question, if any severe outbreak of cholera occurs in a depot, the Medical Inspector shall without delay forward a report thereon to the Protector for submission to Government. On receipt of the report in this instance, the Government made careful enquiries into the matter and have already issued such orders as they deem necessary.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATA RAO :—

676 [XXI] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to order an enquiry by a mixed Commission of officials and non-officials into the origin of the cholera epidemic in Madras?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—A detailed enquiry into the origin of the outbreak of cholera in Madras was made by the Sanitary Commissioner. The Government do not think that any useful purpose would be served by the appointment of a Commission of enquiry such as the Honourable Member suggests.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATA RAO :—

677 [XXII] *Question.*—(a) Have the Government noticed an article headed "Diamonds: Government Claim" in the *Indian Patriot*, of the 4th October 1905, regarding diamonds picked up by the villagers in the surface soil at Vajrakarur, Gooty taluk, Anantapur district; and, if so, do the Government propose to take any steps in the matter?

(b) Are the Government informed of the seven cases of criminal misappropriation instituted by the Sub-Magistrate of Uravakonda in his own court against the finders of such diamonds?

(c) Have the finders of such diamonds been criminally prosecuted before?

(d) Is it true that the local authorities searched the houses of many persons at Vajrakarur as being the possessors or purchasers of diamonds so picked up?

(e) If so, have the Government obtained legal opinion regarding the nature of their claim, and the procedure to be adopted in enforcing such claim?

(f) If the legal opinion has been obtained to justify the present procedure, will the Government be pleased to lay it before the Council?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The Government have seen the article, but have no information regarding the facts alleged in it and referred to in the question. No legal opinion on the question has been obtained.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATA RAO :—

678 [XXIII] *Question.*—(1) Will the Government be pleased to state whether—

(a) it is a fact that the ryots under the Gooty tank, Anantapur district, cultivated in 1904 only a portion of the ayacut land under the advice of the local authorities according to the supply of water in the tank;

(b) it is a fact that these ryots were refused remission for waste amounting to about Rs. 2,000 by the Collector of Anantapur;

(c) it is a fact that an appeal was submitted by the ryots to the Board of Revenue on the 24th April last followed by a telegram on the 30th April and that the further information called for on the 18th May was submitted on the 8th June;

(d) it is a fact that a telegram was submitted to the Board of Revenue on the 18th June followed by another petition reporting that movable properties and lands of these ryots are being sold;

(e) it is a fact that nearly the whole amount has been collected since by sale or otherwise;

(*f*) it is a fact that the appeal petition would remain pending ?

(2) If the facts noted in the above question be true, will the Government be pleased to order refund of monies collected and to order the Collector of Anantapur not to make further collections till the appeals of the ryots are disposed of ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The Government have no information concerning the facts alleged. The matter appears to be one of ordinary local administration.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATA RAO :—

679 [XXIV] *Question*.—Will the Government be pleased to give the number of licenses under the Arms Act issued in 1903, 1904 and 1905 in the districts of Bellary, Anantapur and Cuddapah ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The numbers are—

—	Bellary.	Anantapur.	Cuddapah.
1903	2,654	1,715	4,679
1904	2,615	1,439	4,484
1905	2,391	764	4,484

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

680 [XXV] *Question*.—(*a*) Is it a fact that the Railway Board established at Simla have issued orders to the Agents of Railways to avoid crowding in third-class compartments and in booking-sheds ?

(*b*) Are the Government aware that the South Indian Railway Company are systematically putting the third-class passengers in cattle trucks on occasions of festivity ?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the entire proportion of the earnings of the South Indian Railway is being set apart and spent upon the rolling-stock that is required for the full convenience of the passengers ?

(*d*) Will the Government be further pleased to direct the South Indian Railway Company persistently to refrain from placing the passengers in the cattle trucks ?

The Hon'ble Mr. de Winton :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Railway Board have informed all Railway Administrations that early provision should be made to avoid overcrowding in third-class carriages, and that facilities should be given for obtaining tickets.

(*b*) Government are aware that the use of goods wagons for passengers is occasionally resorted to during festivals as it is in many other countries at times of exceptionally heavy traffic and the practice does not usually give rise to complaint. The use of cattle trucks for the purpose has not been brought to the notice of Government.

(*c*) The rolling-stock on the South Indian Railway has been and is being largely increased. Funds for the purpose are not provided from the earnings of the railway as the cost is charged against Capital and there is of course no fixed proportion of obligatory annual expenditure on rolling-stock.

(*d*) Government see no reason for taking any special action on the Honourable Member's representation.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

681 [XXVI] *Question*.—(*a*) Is the cholera that broke out in Madras due to the tainted water in the pipes ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the gutter water escaped into the pipes ?

(*c*) Has the Madras Municipal Corporation taken any, and if so what, steps to remove the impurities and supply the presidency town with pure and constant supply of drinking-water ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) & (*b*) The Government have no specific information on the subject.

(*c*) Mr. Hormusji Nowroji was placed on special duty on the 5th January 1905 for a period of six months in connection with the revision of the estimates for the water-supply. These estimates will be considered by the Corporation.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

682 [XXVII] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a contribution headed "Another Mysterious Tragedy" under Malabar notes in the *Hindu*, dated 20th September 1905 ?

(*b*) Are the facts mentioned therein true regarding the three soldiers of the 2nd Cheshire Regiment in connection with the death of a three-year old child of a Tiyya woman ?

(*c*). Has the cause of the death been finally ascertained and has any culprit been traced and brought to book ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—Government have read the article. The report is not accurate. On the 10th September last Private Stafford with two other soldiers of the Cheshire Regiment went into the bazaar at Cannanore. At the time they appear to have been the worse for drink. Private Stafford entered a house through an open door, apparently under the impression that the door belonged to a house (next door) which he was in the habit of frequenting. The woman who lived in the house had gone out leaving a child, about a year old, asleep on a mat in the front room of the house. Private Stafford appears, though that has not been clearly proved, to have accidentally trodden on the child and the child was found dead. A magisterial enquiry was duly held. The Civil Surgeon's evidence went to show that the child met with its death by being trodden upon. Charges were framed of house trespass and causing death by a rash and negligent act. The accused was acquitted of the latter charge, the Magistrate holding that the occurrence was accidental, and that the defendant could not be held not to have exercised the caution incumbent upon him. He was convicted, however, of house tresspass and sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 60 or in default to undergo six weeks' rigorous imprisonment.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

683 [XXVIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that at the time when a member of the Indian Civil Service was appointed to act as District and Sessions Judge in the place of Mr. Venkataramana Poi there were only three Indian District Judges ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state why a fourth Indian District Judge was not then appointed ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member has been misinformed. There was no period in which the number of Indian District Judges was reduced to three. Mr. Venkataramana Poi's vacancy occurred on 24th July, on which date another Indian Judge, Mr. Rangachariyar, was appointed as District and Sessions Judge, Cuddapah.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

684 [XXIX] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a contribution by *X* from Tanjore regarding the treatment of the jurors by the Sessions Judge, published in page 3 of the *Hindu*, dated the 24th of July 1905 ?

(*b*) Are the facts alleged therein true, viz., that the medical certificate sent by a juror was refused to be accepted on the ground that the identity of the person must be proved, that a Brahmin juror was refused to be exempted from attendance even on the ground of the sacred ceremony of his son's upanayanam or thread marriage, and that after all the juror had not to serve at the sessions ?

(*c*) If so, will Government take steps to prevent the repetition of any similar occurrence ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The Government have now read the article, but do not think it necessary to call for a report in the matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

685 [XXX] *Question.*—(*a*) Is the attention of Government drawn to the article styled " A Hard Case " in page 3 of the *Hindu*, dated 2nd June 1905 ?

(*b*) Is not the punishment awarded, namely, deprivation of pension and title, out of proportion to the alleged offence, namely, violation of departmental orders ?

If so, will Government be pleased to reconsider the case ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) The Government do not consider the punishment out of proportion to the offence committed and see no reason to reconsider their decision.

The Hon'ble Mr. SIVASWAMI AIYAR :—

686 [XXXI] *Question.*—Are the Government aware that in the recent notification by Mr. Lushington, Government Conservator of Forests of the Northern Circle, in the *Fort St. George Gazette* in respect of scholarships to candidates to be selected to undergo a course of training in the Forest school at Dehra Dun, it is stated that only non-Brahmins need apply, and will the Government be pleased to state the reasons, if any, for the restriction ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The Government do not approve of the passage in the notification to which their attention has now been called, and the Board of Revenue will be directed to instruct the Conservator not to repeat it.

The Hon'ble Mr. SIVASWAMI AIYAR :—

687 [XXXII] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to an article in the *Madras Mail* of the 29th June 1905 on Madras Cooly Emigrants pointing out alleged defects in the working of the present system of emigration and suggesting certain remedies ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to consider the expediency of adopting the said suggestions or of otherwise remedying the alleged defects of the present system ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to question No. II * asked by the Hon'ble Mr. Srinivasa Rao. * 657 *supra*, p. 229.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

688 [XXXIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been called to an article under the heading of " A Case of Glaring Injustice " published in the *Hindu* newspaper of the 31st May 1905 ?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state—

(1) whether Minakshisundaram Aiyar referred to in the article was employed as acting Second Assistant Instructor in Drawing in the Madras College of Engineering ?

(2) whether his future employment in the service of Government has been prohibited ?

(3) what are the reasons for the prohibition ?

(4) whether it is a fact that Minakshisundaram Aiyar had communicated to the Director of Public Instruction his appointment in the Agricultural department before the Director appointed him in the Engineering College, and had also informed the Deputy Director of Agriculture of his appointment in the Engineering College before he declined the appointment in the Agricultural Department ?

(5) whether the Government gave an opportunity to Minakshisundaram Aiyar to offer his explanation before the order of prohibition was passed ?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to reconsider the order prohibiting his re-employment in Government service ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The article in question has now been perused. Minakshisundaram Aiyar was employed as acting Second Assistant Instructor at the Engineering College ; and his future employment in Government service has been prohibited. The man had no permanent appointment in the public service and his temporary services were dispensed with as well as his future employment barred because of his untruthfulness. All the facts were fully before the Government who see no reason to reconsider the order passed.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

689 [XXXIV] *Question.*—(a) Is it a fact that in the Malabar district Government have recently begun to levy assessment on lands which are used exclusively for the purpose of raising seedlings ?

(b) Having regard to the fact that seedlings themselves are not crops and assessment is levied on lands wherein the seedlings are transplanted for the purpose of raising crops, will the Government be pleased to direct that no assessment be levied on seed-beds ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The Government are considering the question of the assessment of seed-beds in Malabar and hope to issue orders shortly.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

690 [XXXV] *Question.*—(1) (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether there are any, and if so how many, first appeals filed in the High Court in 1901, 1902 and 1903 and how many second appeals filed in 1903 are still pending ?

(b) With a view to prevent accumulation of work, will Government be pleased to take steps for the appointment of an additional Judge or Judges in the High Court ?

(2) Will Government be pleased to alter or recommend the alteration of the period of midsummer vacation in the Munsifs' Courts from six weeks to two months ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(1) (a) Government have not the information required, but will ask the High Court to prepare the return asked for.

(b) The Government are not at present in a position to say what action, if any, they are prepared to take.

(2) Under section 30 of the Madras Civil Courts Act, 1873, the High Court fixes the period of vacation of the courts under its control.

The Hon'ble Mr. Krishnan Nayar :—

691 [XXXVI] *Question.*—(1) (*a*) Is it a fact that the Sub-Inspectors of the lower grade employed in the distillery branch of the Salt, Abkári and Customs department do not generally get their due promotion ?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to make enquiries into the matter and do what they deem fit ?

(2) Will Government be pleased to abolish the system of rewards obtaining in the Salt and Abkári department under which, in cases of conviction of offenders, the officers who have taken part in the investigation of offences are given rewards ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(1) The Government have no reason to believe that the officers in question do not receive due promotion and see no reason to make the suggested enquiry.

(2) The answer is in the negative.

The Hon'ble Mr. Srinivasa Rao :—

692 [XXXVII] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the article headed "Civil Hospital Assistants" in page 4 of the *Madras Mail*, dated the 3rd of November 1905 ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to adopt the suggestion of the *Madras Mail* to give the deserving and zealous workers among the civil hospital assistants the chance of entering a grade of the subordinate medical service in which the emoluments are higher or improve their status and pay in some other manner commensurate with the work demanded of them ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The Government have perused the article and do not see their way to accept the suggestion made therein.

The Hon'ble Mr. Srinivasa Rao :—

693 [XXXVIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that seedlings raised in village ponds and communal porambokes have been exempt from assessment under the British Government and under all the Governments which preceded it ?

(*b*) Is there any attempt to assess them, and assess them penally too, in the district of Tanjore by the Revenue authorities ?

(*c*) Is there any memorial or requisition to Government by the District Association of Tanjore to direct that "the time-honoured right and privilege of the ryots" may not be interfered with, and will the Government be pleased to view it favourably ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*c*) A memorial was received last January and the memorialists were referred to the local authorities and the Board of Revenue whose instructions in the matter had the approval of the Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. Srinivasa Rao :—

694 [XXXIX] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state the stage at which their investigation into the inland and marine fisheries of the presidency is and when they expect to publish their report on the subject ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The Government have entrusted to Sir Frederick Nicholson, K.C.I.E., the investigation of the inland and marine fisheries of the presidency, and he commenced his enquiries in July last. It is expected that they will occupy about two years.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

695 [XL] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that in municipal towns the road sides and the drains are used as public latrines and that squatting in streets goes on promiscuously even during the day time under the very nose of the Police?

(*b*) Is it also a fact that the power given to the municipal sanitary inspectors to arrest the offenders without the necessary adjunct of releasing them on bail is anomalous and highly inconvenient and works hardship upon the public?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to secure to the municipalities the hearty and systematic co-operation of the police in putting down effectively the unwholesome habit of using the streets as latrines and to invest the sanitary inspectors with the power immediately to admit to bail the offenders whom they arrest without subjecting them to the indignity of being marched to the police station?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

nswer.—It is the duty of the Police to assist the municipal authorities in preventing the public from committing nuisances in the public streets. The Government are not aware that any hardship has arisen owing to the exercise by the municipal sanitary inspectors of their legal powers. Under sub-section (2) of section 282 of the District Municipalities Act, 1884, only municipal servants who have been specially empowered under sub-section (4) of the same section to exercise the powers of a police officer for the purposes of that Act have authority to arrest, and then only persons who decline to give their name and address or who give a name and address the accuracy of which is open to doubt. The Government have no power to invest municipal servants with greater authority than the Act allows.

21. MEETING OF THE 6TH APRIL 1906.

The Hon'ble Mr. GURUSWAMI AIYAR:—

696 [I] *Question.*—(*a*) Has Government's attention been drawn to a pamphlet by Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao, High Court Vakil at Ellore, on provident societies in the Northern Circars, and is it a fact that his strictures on the objects and methods of those institutions are well merited in numerous cases?

(*b*) Are Government aware that such institutions are also rapidly growing in number in the other districts, especially the southern?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to depute a competent officer to tour in the presidency, examine the affairs of such institutions, and investigate their potentialities for mischief and fraud, with a view to legislating against or otherwise checking the evil complained of?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick:—

Answer.—The matter has for some time past been under the consideration of Government, and last February the Inspector-General of Registration was directed to investigate the circumstances of these societies with the aid of his local officers and to submit a report.

The Hon'ble Mr. GURUSWAMI AIYAR:—

697 [II] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the additional District Munsif's Court of Tinnevelly been working as such for a sufficiently long time to prove its necessity as a permanent court in the district?

(*b*) If so, will Government be pleased to make it permanent, invest it with territorial jurisdiction and remove it from Tinnevelly to Nángunéri, from which taluk litigants have to come long distances without the facility of railway communication?

(*c*) Have Government received memorials praying that the permanent and additional Munsif's Courts of Tinnevelly may continue to be located in the large block of cutcherry buildings at Kokkarakulam, where almost all other courts and offices are held?

(*d*) Is it a fact that the District Judge and the High Court have recommended the retention of these courts at Kokkarakulam, and that the present Collector has urged the removal thereof again to the old buildings at Tinnevelly town?

(*e*) Will Government be pleased to order that the two courts do continue to be held at Kokkarakulam?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick:—

Answer.—(*a*) & (*b*) The Honourable Member's suggestion will receive consideration.

(*c*) A memorial has been received.

(*d*) & (*e*) Proposals have been received for the construction of a court-house at Kokkarakulam for the Tinnevelly District Munsifs' Courts and will be considered.

The Hon'ble Mr. GURUSWAMI AIYAR:—

698 [III] *Question.*—(*a*) Has Government's attention been drawn to the article headed "Doubly taxed" and signed "A. B. J." in the *Madras Mail*, of the 17th March 1906, and is it a fact that the Municipalities of Tinnevelly and Palamcottah have both been levying profession tax on the entire incomes of legal practitioners as stated therein?

(*b*) Does a similar practice obtain at Trichinopoly and Sríraugam or anywhere else in the presidency?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to take the necessary steps or give the necessary directions to municipal bodies with a view to remedying this hardship wherever it exists?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) & (*b*) The Government have now perused the letter referred to. The Government have no information as to the practice obtaining in the Municipalities of Tinnevelly and Palamcottah, at Trichinopoly and Srírangam or elsewhere in the presidency.

(*c*) No representation has been made to Government by any person deeming himself aggrieved by the alleged practice and the Government have therefore had no opportunity of considering whether there is an irregularity which calls for the issue of general instructions by them or whether such person may more properly be left to the remedies provided by the law.

The Hon'ble Mr. GURUSWAMI AIYAR :—

699 [IV] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that Revenue officers have been levying income-tax from Karaswans and Kuttis of chits and kuris on the aggregate of the amounts earned severally by subscribers in the shape of interest or discount?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to state how long this practice has been going on and give the revenue thereby made in the presidency during the last five years or for any one complete year during that period?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to state if they consider the practice legal, and if not to stop this practice and direct the refund of the amounts so collected hitherto?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—It has been the practice since 1888 to levy income-tax on the aggregate of the discounts realized by the associations in question during the term of their operations but information as to the revenue thus realized is not available. The Government are advised that the practice is legal and are not prepared to stop it.

The Hon'ble Mr. GURUSWAMI AIYAR :—

700 [V] *Question.*—(*a*) Has it been the practice for a long time on the part of Revenue officers to impose multiples of standard water-rates as fines for unauthorised use of Government water?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to state when such practice commenced and what is the highest multiple hitherto imposed?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to state the total income made by it during the last five years or in any one year during that period from the excess of these prohibitory water-rates over and above the standard rates?

(*d*) Have Government issued any order or orders at any time prescribing any rates in excess of the standard rates of water-cess with a view to punishing or prohibiting unauthorised use of Government water?

(*e*) If so, will Government be pleased to specify the order or orders passed by them on the subject and lay them on the table?

(*f*) Do Government consider that Madras Act VII of 1865, as amended by Madras Act V of 1900, empowers them to prescribe rates of cess only for such use of Government water as is previously permitted or subsequently ratified, or also to prescribe penal or pohibitory rates to check the unauthorised use of such water?

(*g*) If Government consider that the Act aforesaid does not authorise them to prescribe such prohibitory rates, or if Government have not prescribed any such rates, what steps do Government propose to take for compensating those from whom such prohibitory cess has been levied?

(*h*) Will Government be pleased to stop the practice in future?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew:—

Answer.—The rules for the levy of prohibitory water-rates will be found in Board's Standing Order No. 4 and in Appendix I thereto, and the Honourable Member will observe from the foot-note to paragraph 10 of that Standing Order that the rule there laid down goes back to 1873, while the practice is undoubtedly of far more ancient origin. The Government have no information as to the highest multiple of standard water-rate that has ever been adopted for prohibitory purposes, nor as to the total sum which represents the excess of the prohibitory rates over the standard rates. They consider that Madras Act VII of 1865, as amended by Madras Act V of 1900, does authorise the imposition of prohibitory rates in cases of unauthorised use of water, and they are not prepared to stop the practice of levying such rates.

The Hon'ble Mr. Guruswami Aiyar:—

701 [VI] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that under the orders of the Public Works Department Overseer at Kulittalai, Trichinopoly district, his maistries have posted notices and published them also by *tom-tom* prohibiting people from walking on or crossing the bank of the Cauvery and threatening to impound all cattle found straying thereon?

(*b*) Is it true that people owning or working on lands in the neighbourhood have necessarily to use the bank in the manner prohibited?

(*c*) Is it absolutely necessary for the due protection of the bank that such prohibitions should continue, and if not, will Government be pleased to direct the withdrawal of the same?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew:—

Answer.—The Government have no information as to the notice referred to. A report will be called for from the Superintending Engineer of the Circle.

The Hon'ble Mr. Guruswami Aiyar:—

702 [VII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it true that Government have under consideration a scheme whereby it is intended to attract better talents and better attainments to District Judgeships by improving the pay and prospects of such officers?

(*b*) Do Government intend to improve the pay and prospects of District Munsifs, Sub-Judges and Sub-Magistrates also?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick:—

Answer.—(*a*) No scheme with the objects stated in the question is under consideration, but there is a scheme under consideration for placing the pay of the District Judges on a fairer equality than now obtains with the pay of the officers of the Civil Service who are employed in the executive line.

(*b*) The answer is in the negative.

The Hon'ble Mr. Guruswami Aiyar:—

703 [VIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it the fact that in the Madras series of the Indian Law Reports, arguments of Counsel are almost invariably unreported, and that cases are reported unduly long after they are decided?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to elicit the opinion of the High Court whether the selection of cases for report is exhaustive and discriminate or not?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to increase the number of reporters?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick:—

Answer.—(*a*) The attention of Government has not previously been drawn to the omission to report the arguments of Counsel where such report would be useful. The matter is within the discretion of the Reporter, subject to

the Law Reporting Council. With regard to delay in reporting cases the Reporter has recently, it is understood, been requested by the Council to use greater despatch.

(*b*) & (*c*) The Government have no information upon the subject. The High Court itself will doubtless take action if it considers the selection of cases reported to be inadequate or wanting in discrimination, or that the number of reporters requires to be increased.

The Hon'ble Mr. GURUSWAMI AIYAR :—

704 [IX] *Question.*—(*a*) Are Government aware that where Divisional Magistrates, Munsifs and Sub-Judges are not authorised to record evidence in English they almost invariably allow their clerks to do the work, and that such clerks are frequently ill-qualified therefor ?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to take early steps to alter the arrangement for recording evidence ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—Under section 356 of the Code of Criminal Procedure and under sections 182 and 184 of the Code of Civil Procedure, it is not obligatory on the Court to record the evidence in its own hand.

The Government are not aware that the present system of recording evidence is objectionable and propose to take no steps for the alteration of the law.

The Hon'ble Mr. GURUSWAMI AIYAR :—

705 [X] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that in Courts of Session persons neither specially qualified nor trained in that behalf are appointed as interpreters, and that in courts of European Magistrates there is no competent arrangement at all for correct and reliable interpretation of evidence ?

(*b*) Are Government satisfied that the Translation test is adequate to ensure an accurate interpretation of the thoughts and expressions of witnesses ?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to take early steps to arrange for training interpreters with a view to appointing only trained men for the business ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government are not aware that there are any grounds of dissatisfaction with the manner in which interpreters have performed their duties generally in Courts of Sessions or in which interpretation is conducted in the courts of European Magistrates.

(*b*) The Government consider that the examinations now prescribed are sufficient as a qualifying test of the ability of candidates to interpret evidence.

(*c*) The Government are not satisfied that there is any need to alter present arrangements.

The Hon'ble Mr. GURUSWAMI AIYAR :—

706 [XI] *Question.*—With reference to the promise of Government in reply to question No. VI (*b*) * put by the Hon'ble Mr K. Vasudeva Aiyangar at the meeting of this Council held on the 4th April 1905, will Government be pleased to state if they have placed on the table a copy of their instructions as to the levy of water-cess on irrigation by percolation, and if not, when they propose to do so ?

* 648 *supra*, p. 226.

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—A copy of the order containing the instructions referred to (G.O., No. 31, Revenue, dated 9th January 1904) was placed on the table at the meeting of the Council held on the 4th April 1905.

The Hon'ble Mr. GURUSWAMI AIYAR :—

707 [XII] *Question.*—(*a*) Will Government be pleased to state if any new sources of irrigation have been brought into existence since the last revenue settlement in the Tinnevelly district, and if so, what they are and at what aggregate cost to Government?

(*b*) Will they be further pleased to state if any new facilities have been opened in that district since then for the irrigation of the ayacut then settled as wet, and if so, what they are and at what aggregate cost to Government?

(*c*) Will they be pleased to state the aggregate of the expenditure estimated for the district by the Tank Restoration Party and the amount of such expenditure actually incurred hitherto?

(*d*) Will they be pleased to state the extent of the dry area brought under wet cultivation in the district since the last settlement, how much of it has been assessed as wet and how much of it awaits such assessment?

(*e*) Have Government investigated and fixed in each village in the district the total area capable of being efficiently irrigated from the existing sources, or is addition to wet cultivation going on without reference to any such limit competently fixed on payment first of water-cess and in the hope ultimately of being allowed to pay wet assessment?

(*f*) If the latter, will Government be pleased to order such investigation and limitation of area in view to obviate undue pressure on the existing water sources?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—(*a*), (*b*), (*d*), (*e*) & (*f*) The Government are not at present in possession of the facts which would enable them to give the Honourable Member the information for which he asks in clauses (*a*), (*b*), (*d*) and (*e*) of this question, nor is it possible, within the limit of time available, to collect those facts. When the Board's report on the re-settlement of the district, which is expected shortly, is received, it will probably be possible to supply the Honourable Member with the information which he desires in those clauses.

(*c*) Total amount of expenditure estimated for Tinnevelly district by the Tank Restoration Scheme Party up to 27th March 1906 was Rs. 7,50,636. Actual expenditure incurred up to 30th September 1905 was Rs. 6,19,612.

The Hon'ble Mr. GURUSWAMI AIYAR :—

708 [XIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Were Government repeatedly approached by the people of the Tambraparni valley with a prayer for the construction of a great reservoir near Pápanásam, and will Government be pleased to state if any competent investigation of the project has been made?

(*b*) If so, will they state the result and publish the papers in connection therewith; if not, will they be pleased to order early investigation and report by an expert?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) The results were not favourable but the project has not been entirely abandoned; further investigations are being made to obtain more accurate information regarding the rainfall and the discharge of the Tambraparni. The Government do not at present contemplate the publication of the papers.

The Hon'ble Mr. GURUSWAMI AIYAR :—

709 [XIV] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the waters of the Vaipar river in the Tinnevelly district considerably run to waste, and that there is great room for their utilization in the Viláttikulam division and parts of the Sáttúr taluk?

(*b*) Has any project for throwing any anicut or anicuts across the river in the said region and diverting its water for purposes of irrigation therein been investigated and with what result?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the big irrigation tank at Viláttikulam may be better supplied from the river Vaipar by the construction of a channel at a cheap outlay, and will Government be pleased to direct such work to be taken on hand at an early date?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—Government have no definite information on the subject, but investigations tend to show that in certain years some water runs to waste. A project for throwing an anicut across the Vaipar and thereby improving the supply to Viláttikulam tank is under consideration.

The Hon'ble Mr. Guruswami Aiyar :—

710 [XV] *Question.*—(*a*) Has it come to the notice of Government that the Srívaikuntam anicut across the Tambraparni river has long failed to divert an equal flow of water into the North and South main channels as originally intended and that when the river is low about two feet more of water flows into the north main channel than into the south main channel?

(*b*) Has the cause of this been competently investigated and what steps do Government propose to take to redress this inequality and when?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—Owing to accumulation of sand in front of the Srívaikuntam anicut and to the set of the river towards the north main channel, the supply to the south main channel is to a certain extent affected. It is possible that by providing additional scouring sluices the supply may be improved. The question is engaging the attention of the Superintending Engineer, VI Circle.

The Hon'ble Mr. Guruswami Aiyar :—

711 [XVI] *Question.*—(*a*) Are Government aware that the Kodagan channel taking off from the Tambraparni in the Tinnevelly district and supplying water to very large area through about 80 sluices in its higher course and some tanks in its lower reaches is not sufficiently cleared of silt, and that the wet area of over 1,000 acres under the last two tanks especially suffer frequently owing to the difficulty of flow into the channel?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to direct that the channel be put in complete order before the next cultivation season and that an adequate allotment be made every year for silt clearance?

(*c*) Are Government aware that the last tank supplied by the said channel and called Chattrampudukulam can contain in its normal condition only 20 days' supply for the large area depending on it and that it is considerably silted up now?

(*d*) Will Government be pleased to direct the early construction of sand escapes at a sufficiently low spot to afford periodical outlet for the accumulating silt?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—The Government have no information on the subject, but will call for a report.

The Hon'ble Mr. Guruswami Aiyar :—

668 *supra*, p. 232.

712 [XVII] *Question.*—(*a*) With reference to the answer * of Government given at a former meeting of this Council to the Hon'ble Mr. G. Srinivasa Rao, will Government be pleased to state if the report of the Superintending Engineer dealing with the Kodingal channel in the Kulittalai taluk, Trichinopoly district, has been received by Government?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state—

(i) if the flow of water in it is greatly impeded by the Kumaramangalam dam so as to cause frequent breaches prejudicially affecting cultivation and harvesting in the villages of Maruthur, Parali, Palanthoor, etc.?

(ii) if the channel is wide enough and sufficiently well protected by high banks to support the volume of water usually flowing in it?

(iii) if the arrangements for draining off excess water from it into the river are adequately effective?

(iv) if the kattuvaries, known as Veeravalli vari, Sivayam vari, Valayappatti vari and Naduppatti vari, falling into the channel considerably silt up the channel? and

(v) if the inlets and outlets provided in the channel need prompt repair in several places? and

(vi) if immediate silt clearance on a large scale is required?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state what steps they propose to take to put this channel in complete repair and when?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew:—

Answer.—(a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) & (c) A further report containing definite proposals is awaited from the Superintending Engineer, and as soon as it is received the whole subject will be considered.

The Hon'ble Mr. GURUSWAMI AIYAR:—

713 [XVIII] *Question.*—(a) Have Government received two memorials, one dated about the 10th September 1905 and another about July 1898, from the inhabitants of Palladam in the Coimbatore district protesting against the transfer of the taluk therefrom to Tiruppúr, and praying in the alternative that a Deputy Tahsildar's office may be located at Palladam?

(b) Is it a fact that the taluk office has not yet been removed to Tiruppúr?

(c) Will Government be pleased to retain Palladam as the taluk head-quarters?

(d) If not, will Government be pleased to locate at least a Deputy Tahsildar's office there?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew:—

Answer.—The Government have received the memorials to which the Honourable Member refers. The taluk office has not yet been removed to Tiruppúr, but the Government are unable to alter their decision to remove the taluk head-quarters to Tiruppúr. The question whether it is possible to keep a Sub-Magistrate at Palladam is under consideration.

The Hon'ble Mr. GURUSWAMI AIYAR:—

714 [XIX] *Question.*—(a) Will Government be pleased to state the total mileage of fenced line and unfenced line in the working of the Madras Railway Company and of the South Indian Railway Company?

(b) Is it true that proposed extensions of these railways are not intended to be provided with fencing?

(c) Will Government be pleased to give a statement for three years ending with 1905 showing the number of human beings and cattle injured or killed on the two railway lines on account of want of fencing?

(d) Has the question of the necessity or otherwise of fencing been completely investigated in behalf of Government with reference to statistics showing the extent of injury and mortality on fenced and unfenced lines?

(*e*) If so, will Government be pleased to publish the papers relating to such investigation? If not, will Government be pleased to cause such investigation to be made?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

			MILES.
Answer.—(*a*) Madras Railway—fenced	... ...	...	931
,,	unfenced	...	602
South Indian Railway—fenced		...	678
,,	unfenced	...	675

The unfenced sections of line have fencing at stations, level crossings and other important places. The word "fence" is used as including stone walls and aloe fencing.

(*b*) The Rámêswaram Extension will be fenced only at stations.

The Azhikal-Mangalore Extension will be fully fenced.

It is not proposed at present to fence the small District Board railways that are under consideration. They will probably be fenced at stations.

(*c*) Six hundred and ten head of cattle on the Madras Railway and 665 on the South Indian Railway have been injured or killed during the last three years on those sections of the line that are not fenced. The accident returns of human beings killed or injured do not state whether the line is fenced or not at the site of each accident and the information could not be obtained in time for this meeting. In any case this information would not show the number killed or injured "on account of want of fencing".

(*d*) & (*e*) There are no records of any such special investigation having been held and such a course would be unusual. It is generally recognised that the complete fencing of a line is an expense to be incurred gradually as the service and especially the speed increases, the more dangerous parts of the line such as stations and in the neighbourhood of principal villages and level crossings being meanwhile safeguarded by fencing. The obligation to keep their cattle away from railway lines rests on the villagers (clause 125, 1 and 2 of the Indian Railways Act).

The Hon'ble Mr. Guruswami Aiyar :—

715 [XX] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the District Board of Trichinopoly been levying a railway cess of 3 pies in the rupee during the last three years and has it now accumulated to the extent of one lakh of rupees?

(*b*) Is it a fact that no railway line has yet been resolved to be constructed, and that the difficulty and cost of bridging the Cauvery and Coleroon stands in the way?

(*c*) Have Government received any memorial from the people of the district or are they aware of any from them to the District Board, Trichinopoly, asking for relief from the burden?

(*d*) Will Government be pleased to suspend the levy of the cess until the construction of a railway line is definitely settled?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) The consideration of the question as to which of several lines should be constructed has been postponed pending final orders as to the proposed Trichinopoly-Tirukkóyilúr line upon which the construction of the Trichinopoly-Lalgudi line, which is one of the lines proposed, depends.

(*c*) A memorial was received in January 1904 entitled "from the mirasidars of the Trichinopoly district" requesting that the order sanctioning the levy of the cess might be cancelled.

(*d*) The Government see no reason to suspend the levy of the cess.

The Hon'ble Mr. Guruswami Aiyar :—

716 [XXI] *Question.*—(*a*) Have Government taken steps to make the Langarkhana fund (more than three-quarters of a lakh of rupees) available for the use of the District General Hospital proposed to be built at Palamcottah ?

(*b*) Has not the District Board of Tinnevelly promised to contribute Rs. 25,000, and the Zamindar of Ettiyapuram Rs. 15,000 therefor, and will Government be pleased themselves to make a grant ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government have approved the proposal that the accumulated proceeds of the endowment of the Langarkhana fund which amount to about Rs. 84,500 should be utilized for the purpose of a combined hospital at Palamcottah.

(*b*) The Government have, on the application of the District Board, Tinnevelly, sanctioned a contribution of Rs. 25,000 by the District Board to be paid in five annual instalments of Rs. 5,000 each. The Government have no information as to the contribution of Rs. 15,000 by the Zamindar of Ettiyapuram referred to by the Honourable Member. The Government are not prepared to make any grant from Provincial funds for the purpose of this hospital.

The Hon'ble Mr. Guruswami Aiyar :—

717 [XXII] *Question.*—(*a*) Are Government aware that Trichendúr and Sankaranayinárkóyil in the Tinnevelly district are large places of pilgrimage attracting great and growing crowds of pilgrims year after year and possess very scanty facilities for supply of water for drinking and bathing purposes ?

(*b*) If the authorities of the temples in those places should agree to contribute their share of expenses in view of convenience to the pilgrims that make offerings, will Government be pleased themselves to contribute and call on the local boards concerned to add their contributions for opening water works in the two places ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government are aware that a festival and cattle fair is ordinarily held annually both at Tiruchendúr and Sankaranayinárkóyil, the average annual attendance at each of the places named being reported to be 10,000 and 30,000 respectively.

The Government have no information as to whether pilgrims resort to the two places named by the Honourable Member at other seasons, nor have they any information as to the existing facilities for the supply of water at those places.

(*b*) The question is one for the local boards concerned to consider in the first instance. Any proposals that the local boards may submit on this subject will receive the consideration of Government in due course.

The Hon'ble Mr. Krishnan Nayar :—

718 [XXIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that by reason of heavy criminal work the District Court of Coimbatore is not able to devote sufficient time for civil work ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that persons who have civil work in the District Court of Coimbatore are thereby put to considerable inconvenience ?

(*c*) If so, will the Government be pleased to establish permanently a Sub-Court at Coimbatore ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The Subordinate Judge of Trichinopoly has recently been appointed Assistant Sessions Judge of Coimbatore to give relief to the District and Sessions Judge of Coimbatore in his sessions work and thus prevent his civil work from falling into arrears. The Government do not consider that any further action is needed at present.

64

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

719 [XXIV] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been called to an article under the heading of "High-handed conduct of the Coonoor Plague Executives" published in the *Indian Patriot* of the 17th November 1905?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to make enquiries as to the truth or otherwise of the allegations with reference to arrest, and the closing of the place of business made in the article?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to take steps to prevent the occurrence of such things in future?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) The Government having received a report from the Collector in November 1905 upon the whole case, see no reason to make any further inquiries in the matter.

(*c*) Every precaution is taken to prevent the occurrence of irregularities in the working of the Plague Act and Regulations.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

720 [XXV] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the Palghat Agricultural Association sent telegrams to the Government or to the Revenue Board or to both, stating that in the taluks of Palghat and Ponnáni there was failure of second crops this year, and praying for a remission of Government revenue?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state—

(i) whether any, and, if so, what action was taken with reference to these telegrams,

(ii) whether there was any inspection of crops by responsible Government officials with a view to ascertain the truth or otherwise of the allegations as to their failure,

(iii) when were such inspections, if any, made,

(iv) whether, at the time of the inspection, there were crops on the lands, and

(v) what remissions, if any, of Government revenue were made in consequence of such inspections?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Palghat Agricultural Association sent to Government and the Board of Revenue on the 6th of January a telegram stating that the second crop had failed in the Palghat and Ponnáni taluks, asking for remission of assessment and adding that a memorial followed.

(*b*) The telegram addressed to Government was forwarded for disposal to the Collector of Malabar to whom the Association should have addressed itself in the first instance. No memorial has been received and the Government are not aware what action was taken by the Collector on the telegram transferred to him for disposal.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

721 [XXVI] *Question.*—(*a*) With reference to the rule recently passed by the Government in their order No. 498 L., dated 11th May 1905, prescribing educational qualifications for the posts of managers and accountants in municipal offices and of head clerks in the offices under District Boards, on Rs. 50 and above, will the Government be pleased to consider the question of applying the pension rules or the provident fund rules to the appointments in the municipal service, with a view to make the appointments more attractive to efficient men?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to consider for the same reason the question of introducing a system of organized common service so that efficient and experienced men may be transferred from one municipality to another on promotion or on public grounds as circumstances may require?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to obtain from each Chairman through the Collector concerned a special report showing the efficiency and qualifications of each secretary and manager and circulate lists of such secretaries and managers to all Chairmen and Collectors for selection from among experienced and efficient men to fill up vacancies on higher pay?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick:—

Answer.—(a) The question of framing rules for the institution of provident funds in such municipalities as may be willing to avail themselves of the same is now under the consideration of Government. The opinion of Municipal Councils on the subject is being invited.

The Government are not prepared to extend the Government pensionary system to municipal servants.

(b) As the law stands the introduction of a system of common organized service seems to be inadmissible.

(c) It is open to Chairmen of Municipal Councils to correspond direct with each other. The Government see no sufficient reason to call for the reports described or to circulate the lists suggested by the Honourable Member.

The Hon'ble Mr. Krishnan Nayar:—

722 [XXVII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the permit system of cutting firewood in Government reserved forests for fuel was abolished in Kurnool some time ago?

(b) whether in its place the depot system was substituted under which the Forest department undertook to supply fuel to the people at Rs. 6 per ton from the Government stock?

(c) whether in contravention of the original agreement the Forest department recently raised the price of fuel from Rs. 6 to about Rs. 11 per ton?

(d) whether the Forest department has also recently substituted the system of selling by stack for the system of selling by weighment?

(e) whether the fuel that is sold by stack contains green wood and other articles which are unfit to be used as fuel?

(f) whether the people of Kurnool have recently sent a memorial to the Government on the subject? and

(g) whether the Government will be pleased to consider the memorial favourably?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew:—

Answer.—(a), (b) & (c) The permit system of cutting firewood in Government reserves in Kurnool, was abolished in 1905 and in its place depots for the sale of firewood were opened at Kurnool, but there was no such original agreement to supply fuel at Rs. 6 per ton as the Honourable Member supposes to have existed.

(c), (d) & (e) Up to December fuel was sold at the Kurnool town depot by weight at an average price of Rs. 6 per ton. In December the system of sale by weight was abandoned for that of selling by the stack. A stack of dry fuel weighs about half a ton and the price charged per stack was at first Rs. 6, and afterwards Rs. 5-8-0.

(f) & (g) A memorial on the subject has recently been received from the residents of Kurnool and has been referred to the Board of Revenue for report. The Government have also instructed the Forest department to regulate the price of firewood by the average cost at which fuel can be

supplied throughout the year. The Honourable Member's attention is invited to G.O., No. 213, Revenue, dated 17th February 1906, which has been published and will now be placed on the Council table.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

723 [XXVIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been called to a letter that was published under the heading of "Salem Notes" in the *Hindu* newspaper of 2nd January 1906?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to make enquiries to ascertain whether the locking in of the settlement clerks, referred to in the letter, is true?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to take steps to prevent the repetition of such acts in future?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—The Government have now perused the letter to which the Honourable Member refers. They have received no complaint or other communication on the subject of the alleged occurrence and they do not propose to take any action in the matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

724 [XXIX] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the people of the Tinnevelly district have submitted a memorial to the Board of Revenue regarding the settlement operations in that district?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state how the memorial has been disposed of?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—A memorial purporting to be from "the inhabitants of the Tinnevelly district" has been submitted to the Board and is still under the Board's consideration.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

*661 *supra*, p. 231.

725 [XXX] *Question.*—(*a*) Adverting to question No. VI (*c*) * asked at the meeting of this Council on the 14th November 1905, and the answer to it by the Hon'ble Mr. Bradley, namely, "the explanation of the fact that Madras salt does not compete with Bombay salt in certain localities is mainly trade preference and enterprise", is it a fact that one M. Siviah Chetti submitted in December 1905 a tender to the Board of Revenue for 580,000 maunds of salt for sale in the Coimbatore district and the Mysore Province, and that J. H. Azím-ud-dín & Co. submitted another tender for 660,000 maunds for sale in the Salem and North Arcot districts, the tenderers undertaking to remove the entire quantities within a year?

(*b*) Is it a fact that these tenders were rejected by the Board?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state—

(i) what is the cost price of salt per maund at the Ennore factories?

(ii) what is its cost price at the Madras Salt depot?

(iii) whether the increase of cost price in Madras over that at Ennore is not due to wastage in transit and the cost of carrying salt to Madras?

(iv) whether any, and if so, what amount is annually paid by the Government to the Madras Corporation as tax for storing salt within municipal limits?

(v) whether in the interests of Government and the consumers it is not more profitable to store salt at the Ennore factories themselves than in Madras?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—(*a*) & (*b*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*c*) The cost price of salt at the Ennore factories is not available. The cost price at Madras depot was 3 annas 0·3 pie per maund in 1904–1905. No comparison can be made between the cost price of salt at Ennore and at the Madras Salt depot. Nothing is paid by the Government to the Madras Corporation as tax for storing salt within municipal limits and the Government do not consider that it is more profitable to store salt at Ennore than in the Madras depot.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

726 [XXXI] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been called to an article under the heading of "The Tramway Company," published in the *Hindu* of the 23rd March 1906?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the Tramway Company have recently extended the sidings on their single lines, and that the extension causes obstruction to traffic?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the new rails which the Company have recently laid are 6 inches higher than the old ones which they have replaced, and the road level has been raised to this height all along the tram line?

(*d*) Is it a fact that this raising of the road level causes considerable inconvenience and even danger to the public?

(*e*) Will the Government be pleased to take steps to remove the obstruction and inconvenience to the public caused by these recent acts of the Company?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) The attention of Government has been drawn to the article in question.

(*b*) Government are not aware that any sidings have been extended. Additional crossing places have recently been provided with the permission of the Corporation.

Government have received no complaints that these additional sidings cause inconvenience to the public.

(*c*), (*d*) & (*e*) The Tramway Company have recently relaid their lines along Blacker's Road, across Mount Road, and along Walajah Road, and have raised them in places by 6 inches. This has been done, under the inspection of the Engineer to the Corporation, with the object of allowing the level of the road surface to be improved.

The tramway line in Triplicane High Road was laid three years ago, and is admittedly too high in places.

Government will consider the question of taking action to improve the level of the tramway along Triplicane High Road.

The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur GOVINDARAGHAVA AIYAR :—

727 [XXXII] *Question.*—In view of the fact that District and Sessions Judges appointed from the Provincial Service are generally selected from the Subordinate Judges, will the Government be pleased to invest all Subordinate Judges or at least Subordinate Judges of a certain standing with the powers of Assistant Sessions Judges?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The Government are not prepared to invest all Subordinate Judges or all Subordinate Judges of a certain standing with criminal powers.

The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur GOVINDARAGHAVA AIYAR :—

728 [XXXIII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state at what stage the schemes are for the grading of District Judges and for giving better training to junior Civilians in judicial duties, and will the Government be pleased to publish them for public criticism?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The schemes are under consideration. The Government are not prepared to publish them.

The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur GOVINDARAGHAVA AIYAR :—

729 [XXXIV] *Question.*—Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the pamphlet published by Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao of Ellore on provident societies ?

Will the Government be pleased to make enquiries whether the evils reported to in it are real and will the Government be pleased to take steps for remedying those evils if they be found to be real ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to question I (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*). *

* 696 *supra*, p. 245.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

730 [XXXV] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any definite proposals have been submitted to the Government of India regarding the system of technical and industrial education to be introduced into this presidency, and if any proposals have been submitted, whether the Government of India have approved of the same ?

(*b*) If any proposals have been submitted or approved, will the Government be pleased to state them ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) Proposals have been submitted to the Government of India, whose orders have not as yet been received.

(*b*) The Government regret to be unable at present to furnish any further information on the matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

731, 732 & 733 *Questions*—**731** [XXXVI].—Whether the Government would be pleased to open a sericulture school for adult silk-worm rearers and weaving classes at important centres of silk-weaving, such as Berhampur ?

732 [XXXVII].—Will the Government be pleased to open schools of weaving and printing in important centres of cotton industry ?

733 [XXXVIII].—Will the Government be pleased to open a school of weaving and printing either in the Palkonda taluk of the Vizagapatam district or the Chicacole taluk in the Ganjám district so as to be easily accessible to the weavers of Ganjám and Vizagapatam ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

731, 732, 733 *Answer.*—As stated in the answer to the last question (XXXV), † proposals relating to industrial education have been laid before the Government of India, whose reply has not yet been received. Meanwhile, the lines on which further action should be taken cannot be finally decided, and the consideration of the Honourable Member's suggestions must be postponed.

† 730 *supra*.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

734 [XXXIX] *Question.*—(*a*) Whether the Government would be pleased to state if they have investigated the possibility of profitably working the iron ores of Salem ; if an investigation has been made, will the Government be pleased to publish the results of such investigation ?

(b) If no investigation has been made, will the Government be pleased to undertake the enquiry?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—The question of the development of the iron resources of Salem was investigated in 1894 and the results were published for the information of persons interested in the iron industry in G.Os., No. 420, dated 4th July 1895, and No. 666, dated 24th November 1896, which were communicated to the Press.

In 1898 some experiments were made with samples of the ore in England and the results were published in G.Os., No. 548, dated 22nd September 1898, and No. 686, dated 19th November 1898. In 1899 the Government considered the question of conducting some further investigations into the question of working the ore, but ultimately decided to leave the matter to private enterprise. A prospecting license covering one of the chief deposits has since been obtained by a private firm in Madras.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

735 [XL] *Question*.—Will the Government be pleased to found an institute of experiments in the metal industries in Madras and open training schools for instructions in the wood, iron and mechanical industries in the workshop of the Madras Engineering College as recommended in the Report on Industrial Education?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—Instruction in metal industries is already given in the School of Arts, Madras, and the rules of the College of Engineering provide for the training of instructors in carpentry and blacksmiths' work in the College workshop. It is not proposed to take any further action in these matters until the orders of the Government of India on the proposals of this Government referred to in the answer to question No. XXXV * are received. * 730 supra p. 258

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

736 [XLI] *Question*.—Will the Government be pleased to take steps to introduce the manufacture of enamelled ironware into Madras?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—The Government do not at present propose to take any action in the direction indicated.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

737 [XLII] *Question*.—Will the Government be pleased to open an agricultural school at Samalkot where there is a farm?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—It has been decided, after full consideration, that it is not desirable to attach an Agricultural school to each farm, and the impossibility of providing an adequate teaching staff would alone make such a course impracticable. The Government cannot, therefore, make an exception in the case of Gódávari.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

738 [XLIII] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to consider the desirability of directing that all village munsifs who are agriculturists should as far as possible be made to undergo training at an agricultural school?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—The Government do not consider that to order village munsifs who are agriculturists to undergo training in an agricultural school would serve any useful purpose.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

739 [XLIV] *Question.*—(*a*) Whether any facilities exist at present on the East Coast for ships seeking shelter in harbours during the stormy weather?

(*b*) Whether the port of Vizagapatam does not possess natural advantages for the making of a good harbour?

(*c*) Whether harbour duties have not been levied for several years past at Vizagapatam and the project of constructing a harbour thereat been investigated?

(*d*) Whether, in view of the construction in the near future of the Vizianagram-Raipur Railway connecting the Central Provinces with Vizagapatam and in order to afford protection to shipping, the Government would be pleased to take steps for the construction of a harbour at Vizagapatam?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) Vizagapatam has this natural advantage—that it possess a shallow well-protected backwater which possibly could be dredged into a harbour. The feasibility of any scheme of this nature would depend upon the possibility of deepening or removing the existing bar.

(*c*) Port dues and landing and shipping fees are levied at Vizagapatam as at other minor ports. Investigations have been made regarding the possibility of constructing a harbour there.

(*d*) The matter is under consideration.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

740 [XLV] *Question.*—(*a*) Whether wet crops in the Sarvasiddhi taluk, Vizagapatam district, have been failing for many years past successively?

(*b*) Whether the Government have granted remissions for loss of crop in the said taluk successively for several years?

(*c*) What is the total amount of such remissions during the last fifteen years?

(*d*) Whether the loss of crop is due to the inadequate supply of water to the ryots?

(*e*) Will the Government be pleased to improve the irrigation sources of the taluk by enlarging and extending the capacity of the "Kondakerla Ava" by constructing a reservoir by throwing an embankment across the river Varaha at Indesmmavaka near the Koppaka anicut or otherwise storing and utilising the water of the Sarada and Varaha rivers?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—(*a*) to (*d*) The Government have no information on the subject matter of the question, but a report will be called for from the Collector.

(*e*) The enlargement of the Kondakerla Ava has been thoroughly considered and found not practicable at a reasonable cost. The improvement to the supply channel to the Ava was carried out in 1899–1900 and estimates for improving the main distributaries from the Ava are under execution. A

regulator is being built across the Gokivadagedda which will enable Kondakerla water to be passed back into the Sarada river and utilised for a much larger area than at present. At the same time it will prevent the banks of the Sarada river from breaching in ordinary floods, which at the present times is one of the main causes of loss of crop.

The impounding of the Varaha river at the Koppaka anicut is understood to be impracticable.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

741 & 742 *Questions*—**741** [XLVI].—Will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of altering the limits of the Agency tracts in the Vizagapatam district by including the more civilised parts of the Agency in the Golkonda, Párvatípuram and Gunupur taluks adjoining the plains in the ordinary portion?

742 [XLVII].—Will the Government be pleased to establish a separate District Munsif's Court at Gunupur and confer civil jurisdiction on the ordinary tribunals in respect of such portions of the Agency in the Golgonda and Rayaghada taluks as the Government may consider to be sufficiently civilised?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

741 } **742** } *Answer.*—The matter has been under consideration of the Government from time to time and the Government, while considering that ultimately it may be advisable to transfer certain portions of the Agency tracts from the category of scheduled districts, are of opinion that no action need be taken at present. The change will involve legislation and the matter must stand over until larger changes than those now suggested become advisable.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

743 [XLVIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the revised settlement in the districts of Guntúr, Nellore and Kurnool has been or is to be governed solely by an increase in prices or is also based on a reclassification of soils or the grouping of lands?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to publish from time to time information or place on the table a report showing the number of holdings in the said districts where the increase of revenue is—

Between	1	and	25	per cent.;
,,	25	,,	35	,,
,,	35	,,	50	,,
,,	50	,,	75	,,
,,	75	,,	100	,,
,,	100	,,	200	,,

and above 200 per cent.?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—(*a*) As regards the Guntúr and Kurnool districts, the Honourable Member will find an answer to his question in G.Os., No. 1414, dated 27th December 1904, No. 501, dated 2nd June 1905, and No. 145, dated 15th February 1906, which have all been published and in the notifications issued in the District Gazettes explaining the principles of the resettlements. The resettlement of Nellore is still under consideration.

(*b*) The final reports on the introduction of the resettlements will give statistics of the average increases, but the Government cannot undertake to order the compilation of statistics in the form asked for by the Honourable Member, as it would involve the tabulation of each individual holding.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

744 [XLIX] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it has received a memorial from the inhabitants of Kurnool or its attention has been drawn to the proceedings of a public meeting held in Kurnool regarding the increase in the cost of firewood ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to permit recourse to the permit system which was abolished or to direct the sale of firewood by the Forest department at Rs. 6 a ton or otherwise ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to the answer to question No. XXVII.*

* 722 supra, p. 255.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

745 [L] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been invited to the rapid spread of marriage and death benefit funds in the Northern Circars ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to appoint an officer to report on the working of the societies and take steps to place them on a sound footing and undertake legislation, if necessary ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to question I (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*). †

† 696 supra, p. 245

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

746 [LI] *Question.*—(*a*) Whether the attention of the Government is drawn to a letter in the *Madras Mail*, dated 14th March 1906, headed "A grievance from Ganjám" regarding the hardship alleged to be caused to cartmen by the system of impressment of carts prevailing in the district ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the time has not arrived for the abolition of the system, and if the system cannot be abolished, will the Government be pleased to revise the rates prevailing in the district with due regard to the increase in prices and so that cartmen may be no losers on short journeys and journeys to places from which no return hire can be hoped for ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The attention of Government has now been called to the matter and a report will be called for.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

747 [LII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state the result of the inquiries, if any, into the fungus disease that is attacking the palmyra and cocoanut trees in the Gódávari district and will the Government be pleased to take early steps to check the growth of the disease ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—The Cryptogamic Botanist to the Government of India who enquired into the disease last year found it to be due to a fungus of the genus Pythium—a species new to science. He has promised a further report after the matter has been investigated in greater detail, and the Government await that report before deciding what steps should be taken to check the disease.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

748 [LIII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to take steps to provide a sufficient number of veterinary dispensaries for the treatment of cattle in this presidency ?

Will the Government be pleased to immediately open such dispensaries in the delta tracts of Gódávari where the mortality among cattle is stated to be very great?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—It is impossible to provide sufficient veterinary dispensaries until a sufficient supply of qualified veterinary officers to take charge of them is available. This does not at present exist, but will gradually be provided as trained students graduate in the new veterinary college. The establishment of veterinary dispensaries in the Gódávari district will be considered as soon as a qualified staff exists.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

749 [LIV] *Question.*—(*a*) Having regard to the fact that on the whole primary education has penetrated into only 174 fresh villages during the year 1904–1905 and that the number of villages with a population of less than 200 provided with schools fell in the same year from 950 to 861, will the Government be pleased to state what steps it proposes to take during 1906–1907 for a more rapid spread of primary education?

(*b*) With a view to the rapid and early spread of primary education among the masses, will the Government be pleased to form a separate school fund out of the education grant not utilised during the year so that the same may not lapse into the general revenues of the State?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to take steps to arrest the decline in the number of indigenous schools under private management noticeable during the past few years?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government do not consider that any fair deductions can be drawn from the number of primary schools in small villages containing less than 200 inhabitants. There was an increase of over 1,000 primary schools in the year 1904–1905 compared with 1901–1902 and the number of pupils rose by over 77,000. During the year which has just closed great progress has been made in the construction of primary school buildings. No fewer than 1,034 buildings for village schools have, it is believed, been erected. Of these 445 are in villages where there has been hitherto no school. In addition to the usual number, 369 teachers have been trained during the year and their services will be utilized in these schools. The new schools are now being opened and will be maintained from public funds. More buildings will be erected and schools started during the current year, especially in villages where no school exists at present. Lists have been prepared by the Director of Public Instruction of all such villages in which it appears likely that a school would be patronized and it is intended to supply them with schools as rapidly as funds will permit.

(*b*) The formation of such a fund would be contrary to recognized financial principles; nor is it necessary to do so to attain the object in view.

(*c*) Schools are only classified as indigenous when they are neither recognized nor aided financially by the department. The decline in the number of such schools is largely due to the fact that many of them have been recognized and have accepted aid from public funds and have therefore ceased to be classified as indigenous.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

750 [LV] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to give the post of Under Secretary to Government listed as open to the Provincial service to a member of that service as soon as a vacancy occurs in the said office?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The Governor in Council cannot pledge himself in the manner suggested in the Honourable Member's question.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

751 [LVI] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the price of salt in the district of Vizagapatam has been constantly fluctuating during the year 1905–1906 and that it has sometimes been sold at more than Rs. 2 a maund ?

(*b*) Whether a similar state of things obtains in other districts ?

(*c*) Whether the high prices prevailing were due chiefly to an insufficient supply in the stores ?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to enquire and take steps to enable the poor to reap the full benefit of the reduction in the duty on salt ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—It is a fact that there have been considerable fluctuations in the price of salt in Vizagapatam as well as in the neighbouring district of Ganjám and that the price has sometimes risen to more than Rs. 2 per maund. These high prices have been partly due to shortage in stocks arising from unfavourable manufacturing seasons, and steps are being taken during the current year to increase the outturn of the factories.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

752 [LVII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to take steps to promote the production of lighter and more refined forms of salt in this Presidency ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—Experiments are being made to see whether lighter salt cannot be produced in this presidency consistently with the safety of the revenue.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

753 [LVIII] *Question.*—(*a*) In view of the decline in the strength of the non-officials in the District Boards from 180 nominated and 226 elected in 1903–1904 to 170 and 214 in 1904–1905, will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of strengthening the non-official element in the District Boards ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of preventing as far as possible competition between the Revenue officials and non-officials in the Taluk Board in the matter of elections to the District Boards and of framing rules for the purpose ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) The maximum strength of the District Boards in 1904–1905 was 699 as in the previous years, but there were on the last day of 1904–1905, 635 members actually holding office, as against 657 on the corresponding day of the previous year. The number of nominated officials was the same on the last day of each year, *viz.*, 251. The small number of non-officials is accounted for by the existence of 10 nominated and 12 elective vacancies at the close of the year. The maximum number of nominated officials is fixed by law, a large proportion being *ex-officio* members. The Government see no reason at present to take any special action to reduce this proportion.

(*b*) The Government have received no complaints on the subject and, as at present advised, see no sufficient ground to interfere.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

754 [LIX] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing for each district the normal, the warning and the scarcity rates of food-grains fixed by the Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—A table of the rates at present adopted will be found in Appendix B to the Famine Code, 1905. Their revision is now under consideration.

The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur GOVINDARAGHAVA AIYAR :—

755 [LX] *Question.*—Are there any rules governing the granting of copies to the parties concerned of orders passed by the Government of India or the Secretary of State for India in Council on appeals to them by public servants against orders of dismissal, and, if so, what are they?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The instructions of the Government of India are that the substance of the orders passed by the Government of India or the Secretary of State on appeals made to them by public servants shall be communicated to the individual affected.

The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur GOVINDARAGHAVA AIYAR :—

756 [LXI] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that most of the seniors in the first grade on Rs. 200 among Civil Assistant Surgeons have absolutely no prospects of further promotion in the usual course though they may serve for ten years more, as the permanent Civil Surgeons are about the same age as the seniors?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to sanction the senior grade for the Assistant Surgeons of this presidency also, with a view to ameliorate their condition and to complete the assimilation of the local service with those of the other provinces which have had the senior grade since August 1898?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) Of the four Civil Surgeons two will not attain the age of 55 years till 1914 and the remaining two till 1915. Five of the eight Civil Assistant Surgeons of the first grade will not attain the age of 55 years till after the year 1915.

(*b*) The question whether it is desirable to introduce the senior grade of Civil Assistant Surgeon on Rs. 300 a month into the Madras Presidency was very fully considered by the Government on a question * asked by the Honourable Member at a meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 29th November 1904. It was found that a number of charge allowances now enjoyed by Madras Civil Assistant Surgeons would have to be discontinued and that the creation of the senior grade, while benefiting a small number of Civil Assistant Surgeons, would react adversely on the emoluments of a larger number. The Government therefore deemed it inexpedient to introduce the senior grade. The position has not since changed.

* 538 *supra*, p. 187.

22. MEETING OF THE 13TH NOVEMBER 1906.

The Hon'ble Mr. GURUSWAMI AIYAR :—

757 [I] *Question*—With reference to G.O., No. 1108 I., dated 26th September 1902, postponing the further investigation of the Ghiriyar project in the Tinnevelly district, will Government be pleased to help and expand wet cultivation in the dry taluk of Srívilliputtúr and its neighbourhood by directing the very early resumption of that investigation ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Wilson :—

Answer.—It was not possible for the Special Superintending Engineer to take up the necessary investigation before the expiry of his term of office on the 30th September last; but arrangements will, if possible, be made for the early investigation of the Ghiriyar catchment by the special officers now engaged on the Pambiar and Periyár investigation.

The Hon'ble Mr. GURUSWAMI AIYAR :—

758 [II] *Question*.—(*a*) Have Government received a memorial from the ryots of Molagavalli in the taluk of Alúr in the Bellary district stating that the rainfall in that village was very scanty during the last five faslis and praying that the arrear revenue demand accumulated during the last three years might be remitted ?

(*b*) Are the facts stated therein substantially correct, and if so, will Government be pleased to state what order they have passed or propose to pass to give relief to the memorialists ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—The memorial referred to has been received and has been referred to the Board of Revenue for report. The Board's report has not yet been received.

The Hon'ble Mr. GURUSWAMI AIYAR :—

759 [III] *Question*.—With reference to the answer of Government to my interpellations at the last meeting of this Council, numbered XVI and XVII * series, will Government be pleased to state if the reports referred to therein have been received and what action has been or is to be taken to remedy the grievances pointed out ?

* 711 and 712 *supra*, p. 250.

The Hon'ble Mr. Wilson :—

Answer.—In reply to Question No. XVI † asked at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on 6th April 1906 :

† 711 *supra*, p. 250.

(*a*) & (*b*) It is understood from the local officers that the Kodagan channel always gets a good supply of water and that it was cleared of silt during the three years ending 1905–1906 at a cost of Rs. 2,320. Further clearances found necessary will be carried out.

(*c*) Though the capacity of the Chattrampudukulam tank, which has a catchment of 23 square miles, will last only for 26 days, it is reported that the tank constantly gets fresh supplies.

(*d*) As regards the provision of sand sluices to the tank, it is understood that there are already three sand vents. It is not considered advisable to provide any more as the ryots will not work them and as a general rule sand sluices in a tank have not proved effective.

In continuation of the reply given to Question No. XVII * at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 6th April 1906 the Honourable Member is informed that before any final report can be expected from the Superintending Engineer, certain investigations have to be made and the Superintending Engineer will be requested to report when these will be completed. As far as is known at present, the cost of any really effective remedy is likely to be prohibitive. * 712 supra p. 250.

The Hon'ble Mr. GURUSWAMI AIYAR :—

760 [IV] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that incomes of chit companies are assessed to income-tax in the district of Tinnevelly though annually they are below the assessable minimum, and will Government be pleased to state if this practice has obtained anywhere else and how long?

(*b*) Do Government consider such assessment legal; and if not what redress for the past and remedy for the future do they propose to afford?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—Under part II of the second schedule to Act II of 1886 income-tax is leviable on the whole of the net profits made in British India by any company as defined in the Act, and there is no assessable minimum. All companies as defined in the Act have been so assessed since the introduction of the Act and the Government see no reason to regard such assessment as illegal.

The Hon'ble Mr. GURUSWAMI AIYAR :—

761 [V] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the Church of St. Peter at Ráyapuram is the property of the caste of boat-owners and boatmen called Cooroocoola Vamsa residing in that locality?

(*b*) Is it a fact that there is a fund of about one and a half lakhs of rupees which is also the property of the said caste and is to be used for divine worship by them in that church?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the amount remained locked up with the Government from 1833 to 1865 and has since remained in court deposit?

(*d*) Is it true that it has been judicially settled so as to bind the whole caste that the officiating priest is to be appointed by a majority of the caste and that no priest otherwise appointed can officiate in the church or be lawfully paid his salary or expenses from the fund?

(*e*) Is it also true that the fund is now quarter of a lakh less than it was in 1865 and that during the interval nearly one lakh and fifteen thousand rupees have been spent out of it for law charges and receivers' commission?

(*f*) Is it a fact that in an election held in May last under the presidency of Rai Bahadur L. D. Swamikannu Pillai, the Reverend Fernandez of the Mylapore Mission has been duly elected by two hundred and twenty-one voters out of two hundred and thirty-five that attended the poll?

(*g*) Have Government received a memorial from the said caste complaining that, after such protracted costly litigation, the will of the caste is not allowed to prevail?

(*h*) Will Government be pleased to state what action they propose to take?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) to (*d*) The Honourable Member is referred to the judgment of the High Court in Original Suit No. 102 of 1880 which contains a history of the matter and which settled a scheme for the administration of the fund.

(*e*) The Government have no information as to the present condition of the fund.

(*f*) The Government have no information about the election beyond what has been published in the newspapers.

(*g*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*h*) The Government have declined to interfere.

The Hon'ble Mr. GURUSWAMI AIYAR :—

762 [VI] *Question.*—(*a*) With reference to my remarks on the recruitment and prospects of Indian officers in the City Police at the discussion of the last budget, will Government be pleased to make a statement explanatory of the circumstances that led to the peculiarities pointed out and the policy that Government propose to pursue hereafter ?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to provide as early as possible for a larger admixture of the Indian element, especially the Muhammadan, into the ranks of officers in that force, and give the Indian recruits the same facilities of promotion as to Europeans and Eurasians ?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to state why Indian Sub-Inspectors are denied house-rent while European Sub-Inspectors are paid the same, and order equal treatment for both classes ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) & (*b*) The peculiar circumstances of the Madras City make it advisable to employ a considerable number of Europeans or Eurasians. There is, however, a scheme now under consideration for the reorganization of the City Police force. When this is given effect to, the personnel of the force will be considered.

(*c*) The distinction arose from the different circumstances of the two classes, but, when the new scheme just mentioned comes into force, the grant of house-rent allowances will be abolished and all Sub-Inspectors of the City force will as soon as possible be given free-quarters.

The Hon'ble Mr. GURUSWAMI AIYAR :—

763 [VII] *Question.*—(*a*) Have Government perused reports in the newspapers—

(1) of the testimony of Mr. Milo MacMahon, a passenger on board the S.S. *Umfuli* that recently brought Indian coolies from Natal to Madras, to the following effect as regards their voyage on board that vessel and the treatment of coolies in general in Natal estates, and

(2) of the corroboration of such testimony from two of his fellow passengers, viz., Messrs. Blamire and B. Oldack ?—

"He spent several months in the Natal sugar estates and saw everything "there was to see there and formed his opinion as a practical planter that he is. In "those estates (with the exception of some where the cooly is treated well) indentured "Indian coolies are worked from daybreak to nightfall—from 4 in the morning "until 7 in the night—and far beyond their capacity such as it is. Being questioned "whether they would like to go again to the estates some coolies told him 'Never, "dorai, why, they skin you alive in that place'. When they leave their coast the "coolies do not know where they go, and once they return home they do not like to "go back to the estates. The slavery there under the British flag is indeed worse "than the slavery under the Sultan of Zanzibar. So worked, the coolies contract all "sorts of diseases including consumption, and most of those who survive return home, "mere wrecks of humanity, to die. Ceylon planters would be shocked if they saw "the way these coolies are treated. It is a surprise that the authorities in India do "not inquire into the matter. There have been commissions of a kind but a com- "mission of Ceylon and Indian planters should see how the indentured coolies are "treated there. The way these coolies, about 650 in number with more than 200 "invalids among them, were packed home on board the S.S. *Umfuli*, a vessel of less "than 2,300 tons, was a disgrace to civilization. They were huddled together men, "women and children—without any separation of the sexes. Some of the invalids

"were in a pitiable condition and ought never to have been allowed to leave the "hospital. The best that was in them having been taken out of them they were "packed home to die. Among the invalids, there were cases of measles, beri beri, "consumption and leprosy. There was no room for proper isolation and those "required to be isolated were placed—men, women and children all huddled together "—in two boats swung over the deck. Even lepers were mixed up with the rest. "How they lived in there he could not imagine. As a fact fourteen deaths occurred "on the voyage."

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to state if they directed any of their officers to ascertain the facts from the passengers on board that vessel when it arrived at Madras; and if any official report has been received, will Government be pleased to lay the same on the table?

(*c*) Have Government addressed the Government of Natal or anybody else there calling for an explanation in respect of the overcrowding of, and defective arrangements for, the passengers on board that vessel; and if not, will Government be pleased to do so hereafter and publish the correspondence or its result?

(*d*) In view of the serious charges alleged regarding the treatement of coolies in Natal, will Government be pleased to appoint a commission of inquiry, composed of an experienced Indian planter and an eminent non-official Indian among others, to see and investigate the present condition of things in the estates and suggest reforms for the future?

(*e*) Will Government be pleased to consider the desirability of locating an officer of the Indian Civil Service or a high native Indian officer in Natal as Protector of Indian Emigrants and periodically recalling that officer into service in India sending another in his stead?

(*f*) If not, will Government be pleased to state what action they propose to take for the proper protection of their cooly subjects in that country?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick:—

Answer.—The Government have read the papers referred to.

The report from the Protector of Emigrants on the S.S. *Umfuli* will be placed on the table. Government propose to await the further information promised before deciding whether any and, if so, what action should be taken in this matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. GURUSWAMI AIYAR:—

764 [VIII] *Question.*—With reference to a Malabar correspondent's complaint under the heading "A Sad Case" in the *Hindu* of the 8th October 1906 and my telegram and letter of 9th October 1906 to Government regarding that complaint, will Government be pleased to state if it has been inquired into and with what result?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick:—

Answer.—The Government have enquired into the matter. The anonymous letter in the *Hindu* misrepresented the facts which are as follows:—

Two Panniars named Velli and Velukkan were convicted on the same day by the Sarishtadar-Magistrate of the Wynaad. Velli was convicted of theft and sentenced to undergo 15 days' rigorous imprisonment; and Velukkan was convicted of house-breaking and theft and sentenced to undergo 3 months' rigorous imprisonment. Both men were despatched on 20th May to the Central Jail, Cannanore. On admission into the jail on the 23rd May the men personated each other with the result that Velukkan who had been sentenced to 3 months was released after 15 days. Subsequently both men were rearrested by order of the District Magistrate, Malabar, and kept under remand. Velukkan, however, escaped from police custody and his whereabouts are still unknown. Velli was tried by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate of Tellicherry. It was proved that, in the registers

of the jail, the entries relating to Velukkan really belonged to convict Velli and *vice versâ*, and it is clear from the judgment that the personation was carried out intentionally by the prisoners themselves. Velli was convicted under section 182 of the Indian Penal Code of giving false information with intent to cause a public servant to use his powers to the injury of another person, and sentenced to one month's rigorous imprisonment.

The insinuations made in the letter in the *Hindu* against the District Magistrate of Malabar are groundless.

The Hon'ble Mr. Guruswami Aiyar :—

765 [IX] *Question.*—(*a*) Have Government received a memorial from the inhabitants of Tuticorin on the subject of Indo-Ceylor communications protesting against the adoption of the Rámésvaram-Mannar route and suggesting improvements to their harbour ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that any proposals for effecting a Rámésvaram-Mannar connection are before Government and under their consideration, and if so, will Government be pleased to make a statement as to the nature of the proposals, the financial responsibilities of Government therein involved and the view that Government have thus far definitely taken in the matter ?

(*c*) Is it a fact, as urged by the inhabitants of Tuticorin, that the port revenue of that place has annually exceeded the expenditure by about sixty thousand rupees, and will Government be pleased to state the aggregate of such surplus during the last twenty years or for that portion of the period for which figures are now available ?

(*d*) Will Government be pleased to state if improvements to the harbour of Tuticorin must await their decision on the question of Rámésvaram-Mannar connection or are intended to be taken on hand independently ?

(*e*) If the latter, will Government be pleased to order that expert investigation of the best mode of improving and protecting the Tuticorin harbour be commenced at an early date ?

(*f*) Are Government aware of the utter inadequacy of accommodation in the Tuticorin Railway station for passengers to and from that town and the total want of accommodation for those of all classes including emigrant coolies landing at or embarking from that port, and will Government be pleased to call the attention of the Railway administration concerned with a view to early improvements being effected ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) Government have received a memorial from the inhabitants of Tuticorin on the subject of Indo-Ceylon communications protesting against the adoption of the Rámésvaram-Mannar route and suggesting improvements to their harbour.

(*b*) The question of effecting connection between Rámésvaram Island and Mannar is still under consideration, but Government are not at present in a position to state their views.

(*c*) Port dues collected at Tuticorin under the Indian Ports Act, 1889, are credited to the General Minor Ports Fund and a separate account for each port is not maintained by Government. The port dues collected at any particular port cannot be regarded as available for expenditure at that particular port.

Other revenues collected in the port of Tuticorin are landing and shipping fees and pier tolls. The receipts are expended for local purposes and the accounts are published annually in the *Fort St. George Gazette.*

In 1904 the Government purchased at the cost of the General Minor Ports Fund a dredger at a cost of about Rs. 3,30,000 primarily for the improvement of the port of Tuticorin.

(*d*) The proposed improvements to the Tuticorin harbour need not necessarily await a decision on the question of Rámésvaram-Mannar connection.

(*e*) The Government finding that serious questions have heen raised as to whether the work done by the dredger in the Tuticorin harbour has been of any real advantage have appointed a committee to consider the best mode of improving the harbour.

(*f*) Government consider that the accommodation at the Tuticorin Railway station is inadequate and representations to that effect will be made to the Railway administration concerned.

The Hon'ble Mr. GURUSWAMI AIYAR :—

766 [X] *Question.*—(*a*) Are Government aware that there is public dissatisfaction at the supersession of Mr. C. Sankaran Nayar, C.I.E., at the last filling up of temporary vacancies on the bench of the local High Court?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to make a statement as to why he was so superseded after acting thrice as a Judge of that Court?

(*c*) Have Government recommended to the Government of India or to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India that the number of Judges of that Court should be permanently increased to seven, and if so, have they also recommended any statutory modifications so as to admit of the permanent appointment of more Indians than one as Judges of that Court?

(*d*) If not, will Government be pleased now to make such a recommendation?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The Government consider it inexpedient to make any statement on the subject.

The Hon'ble Mr. GURUSWAMI AIYAR :—

767 [XI] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that in the Madras Salt, Abkári and Customs department—

(1) only twenty-nine out of one hundred and three gazetted officers are Indians,

(2) only one out of twenty-two officers drawing Rs. 500 and over is an Indian, and

(3) none out of eight officers drawing Rs. 1,000 and over is an Indian?

(*b*) Is it also a fact that fourteen of the twenty-nine Indian officers are graduates while eleven of the seventy-four Europeans and Eurasians are unpassed men specially exempted by Government in the matter of educational qualifications?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to state if there is any order in force reserving the higher ranks in the department to Europeans and Eurasians, and if so, will they be pleased to lay it on the table?

(*d*) Will Government be pleased to cancel that order and lay down a more liberal policy?

(*e*) Will Government be pleased to increase the number of Indian officers in the gazetted ranks as vacancies arise and allow access to those already in service to Assistant Commissionerships and Deputy Commissionerships at the earliest opportunity?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—If the term "Indian" means a Native of India as defined in Statute 33 and 34, Victoria, Cap. 3, the figures quoted by the Honourable Member are not correct. It is a fact that eleven of the seventy-four Europeans and Eurasians are unpassed men specially exempted by Government from the examination rules. There is no order reserving the higher ranks of the Salt, Abkári and Customs department to any class or excluding any class therefrom, and there is nothing to prevent any Native of India from being promoted to the rank of Assistant Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner if he is found fit for such appointment.

The Hon'ble Mr. GURUSWAMI AIYAR :—

768 [XII] *Question.*—(*a*) With reference to the Government Order issued in July 1904 regarding the tender of an apology by Sub-Magistrate Vijayandra Rao of Trichinopoly to the local police, will Government be pleased, in reconsideration thereof, to render his punishment also temporary as it was in the case of the other officers concerned and restore him now to his magisterial position ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that, in pursuance of the said Government Order, Vijayandra Rao was offered a Huzur Treasurership first at Trichinopoly and then at Guntúr on a salary of Rs. 125 and that owing to his poverty he was unable to find the necessary security therefor ?

(*c*) Is it a fact that he has since then been employed as head clerk of a Revenue Sub-Divisional office on a salary of Rs. 70 only ?

(*d*) If Government do not think fit to restore him to his magisterial position, will they be pleased to direct his restoration to his original salary of Rs. 120 in the Revenue or any other suitable department ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government are not prepared to give any such undertaking at the present time.

(*b*) It is a fact that Vijayandra Rao was offered the appointments referred to and declined to take them up.

(*c*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*d*) The answer is in the negative.

The Hon'ble Mr. GURUSWAMI AIYAR :—

769 [XIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Has Government's attention been drawn to a letter signed "Abdus Salam, B.A.", published on pages 6 and 7 of the *Muslim Patriot* of the 12th October 1906, in which it is complained that the interests of qualified Mussalmans already in Government service are not duly regarded and that deserving Mussalman candidates are not encouraged to enter the public service ?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to state the circumstances under which the claims of the Muhammadan applicants referred to therein were not favourably considered in filling up the vacancies in the offices of—

(1) the Registrar of the Court of Small Causes, Madras,
(2) the Science Master of the Government Madrasa-i-Azam, and
(3) the Mathematics Master in the same school ?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to state also how the Eurasian Biology Graduate referred to therein came to be preferred for the post of Science Master and how Mr. H. W. Callaghan, a Graduate (B.A. and L.T.) of but one year's standing, came to be appointed directly to a vacancy on Rs. 200 in the Provincial Educational Service in supersession of officers already in the department ?

(*d*) If in the cases aforesaid the claims of qualified Muhammadans are found to have been overlooked, will Government be pleased to instruct generally or the head of the department concerned to see that such cases do not recur ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The Government have now perused the letter referred to. The Government are not prepared to give information as to the grounds upon which, in the exercise of their patronage, they select one individual in preference to another for any vacant appointment. All claims are most carefully considered.

The Hon'ble Mr. GURUSWAMI AIYAR :—

770 [XIV] *Question.*—(*a*) With reference to the correspondence from Kulittalai under the heading "An overzealous Salt official" in the *Hindu* of 22nd August 1906 and my letter to Government on the same subject, dated 15th September 1906, will Government be pleased to state if an inquiry has been made in the matter and with what result ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Assistant Inspector knocked at the door of the Sub-Inspector late at night to see if he was there, insisted on his young wife alone in the house opening the door for a search, and searched everywhere inside including even the bedding?

(c) Is it a fact that the Sub-Inspector threw himself into the Cauvery and committed suicide feeling disgraced at the incident and has left a widow and family in helpless poverty and distress?

(d) If the allegations are substantially as stated in the *Hindu*, will Government be pleased to state how they propose to deal with the Assistant Inspector and if they will kindly give suitable relief to the Sub-Inspector's widow and family?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew:—

Answer.—An inquiry has been held by the Inspector, Salt, Abkári and Customs department, into the case referred to in the question and the result of it is to show that the Sub-Inspector's death was not due to any action of the Assistant Inspector as alleged. The report of the inquest has not yet been received, but the Honourable Member's attention may be directed to the letter, dated 3rd September, which appeared in the *Hindu* newspaper of the 5th idem and in which the writer of the original letter "in justice to the Assistant Inspector" and "on further inquiry" practically withdrew his previous allegations.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—

771 [XV] *Question*.—(a) Has the attention of the Government been called to a letter that was published under the heading of "the Arbuthnot failure" at page 4 of the *Indian Patriot* newspaper of 29th October 1906?

(b) Having regard to the extent and intensity of the suffering caused by the Arbuthnot failure and the necessary delay incidental to the usual judicial procedure with reference to insolvency matters, will the Government be pleased to pass or move the Government of India to pass a special law vesting the administration of the estate of the firm in a special board or do any other act calculated to afford some relief speedily to the suffering creditors?

(c) Will the Government be pleased at the request of creditors to lend the services of one or more expert accountants employed under Government for the examination of the accounts of the firm?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick:—

Answer.—(a) The Government have now perused the letter referred to.

(b) The Government do not consider that any action of the kind is necessary or advisable.

(c) The appointment of expert accountants as auditors is a matter within the province of the High Court.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—

772 [XVI] *Question*.—(a) Is it a fact that, according to the existing rules regulating the personal conduct of Government servants in this presidency, all gazetted officers and some non-gazetted officers are prohibited from having pecuniary transactions in the ordinary course of business with any bank or firm other than joint stock banks or British firms?

(b) Is it a fact that the officers mentioned in Question No. XVI (1) * above are according to the said rules prohibited from depositing their money in Indian or Native banks which are not joint stock banks?

* Clause (a) of the question.

(c) Will the Government be pleased to amend rules 21, 22, 24 and schedule C of the rules regulating the conduct of the Government servants in such a way as to allow the officers therein mentioned to have pecuniary transactions in the ordinary course of business with Indian or Native banks also though they may not be joint stock banks?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) & (*b*) The rules are as stated by the Honourable Member, but their aim is to prohibit Government servants from entering into pecuniary transactions with persons who may be subject to their official authority, or who may be residing or carrying on business or possessing property in areas which may come within the official influence of Government officers.

(*c*) The rules are based on orders of the Government of India. The question whether these rules should be revised is under consideration.

The Hon'ble Mr. Krishnan Nayar :—

773 [XVII] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been called to an article under the heading of "The Malabar Survey" that was published at page 5 of the *Indian Patriot* newspaper of 27th October 1906?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the survey registers of the Malabar district are in many instances wrong?

(*c*) Is it a fact that by reason of mistakes in survey, owners of lands in Malabar have in some cases been obliged to pay Government revenue for larger extent of land than really belongs to them?

(*d*) Is it a fact that owing to mistakes in survey, land-owners in Malabar have in some instances had to pay revenue to Government for other persons' lands?

(*e*) Is it a fact that the Government or the Revenue Board have on account of mistakes in survey ordered a resurvey of the Parappanangadi amsam of the Ernad taluk in the Malabar district or any other part of Malabar?

(*f*) Will the Government be pleased to bear the cost of such a resurvey?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—The Government have now perused an anonymous letter which appeared in the newspaper referred to, but do not consider it necessary to order any enquiry into the statements it contains. If any resurvey of any part of Malabar is made, its cost will be debited according to the usual rules.

The Hon'ble Mr. Krishnan Nayar :—

774 [XVIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been called to an article under the heading of "Strange doings at the Maternity Hospital" published in the *Standard* of the 23rd October 1906?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to make enquiries as to the truth or otherwise of the allegations contained therein about the conduct of the Assistant Surgeon Mr. James towards a Hindu lady patient?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to take steps to prevent the occurrence of such acts in future?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The attention of Government has been drawn to the matter and they are in possession of a report from the Superintendent in charge of the Maternity Hospital. The complaint, as stated in the article, is much exaggerated. The Superintendent took at the time what he considered to be due notice of Assistant Surgeon James' conduct, and the Government see no reason to take any further action in the matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. Krishnan Nayar :—

775 [XIX] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the Government have resolved to make a grant of Rs. 30,000 towards the cost of printing Dr. Pope's Tamil Lexicon in England and publishing the book?

(*b*) Is it also a fact that the only stipulation which the Government have made with Dr. Pope for the contribution of Rs. 30,000 is that 50 copies of the book should be supplied free of cost to the Government?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to take steps to see that the book, when published, is issued at a reasonable price?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—Negotiations in respect of the matter are still pending.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

776 [XX] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been called to an article under the heading of "The Presidency Magistrates" published in the *Indian Patriot* of the 11th October 1906?

(*b*) Having regard to the large increase of work in the Courts of the Presidency Magistrates and the distance from some parts of the City to these Courts in Egmore and Georgetown, will Government be pleased to increase the number of Presidency Magistrates or appoint Honorary Magistrates for the disposal of cases?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The Government have now perused the article. The proposal to appoint Honorary Magistrates when made on previous occasions received careful consideration, but the Government arrived at the conclusion that Courts of Honorary Magistrates were not suited to the local conditions of Madras, however adapted they might be to the conditions of the mufassal, and the subject was dropped. The Government, on the information before them, see no necessity to reconsider the proposal at present.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

777 [XXI] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the rule of granting an allowance of 50 per cent. of their pay, subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 a month, to all officers of Government who are employed in the Wynaad taluk of the Malabar district, is not applicable to Sub-Registrars?

(*b*) Is it a fact that Sub-Registrars employed in the Wynaad taluk are given an allowance of only Rs. 15 a month whatever their pay may be?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to extend the rule of granting Wynaad allowances to Government servants in general, to the cases of Sub-Registrars also?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) & (*b*) Certain classes of officers in the Wynaad are ordinarily granted an allowance of 50 per cent. of their pay, and Sub-Registrars in the Wynaad taluk are granted an allowance of Rs. 15 only.

(*c*) The question of giving an increased allowance to the Sub-Registrars in question will be considered by Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

778 [XXII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to direct the publication of the report and other proceedings of the Committee of Inquiry which investigated the causes of the Kóduru Railway collision case?

The Hon'ble Mr. Wilson :—

Answer.—The report and other proceedings of the Committee of Inquiry which investigated the causes of the Kóduru collision were forwarded by the Senior Government Inspector of Railways, Madras, to the Railway Board. It is for the Railway Board to decide whether the report should be published or not, and Government are at present unaware of their intention in the matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

779 [XXIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been called to a letter under the heading of "Low-paid clerks and Acting appointments" published in the *Hindu* of the 7th September 1906?

(*b*) Is it a fact that, as stated in the letter, concessions in the matter of privilege leave allowances are often denied to low-paid clerks but never to high-paid officers in some public offices?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to take steps to prevent the occurrence of such things in future?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government have now perused the article.

(*b*) & (*c*) The Government have no reason to suppose that the rules are unfairly applied.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

780 [XXIV] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to an article under the heading of "Scarcity and dearness of food-grains" published in the *Hindu* of the 14th September 1906?

(*b*) Having regard to the high prices of food-grains prevailing in the market, will the Government be pleased to grant some extra allowance as provided for in the Civil Account Code to the low-paid servants in public offices?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—The Government have perused the article referred to. They do not consider that there are at present sufficient grounds to sanction the grant of compensation for dearness of provisions to any class of public servants.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

781 [XXV] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to letters and articles about the condition of low-paid Government servants that appeared in the issues of the *Hindu*, dated 23rd May 1906, 25th May 1906, 2nd June 1906, 28th July 1906, 21st August 1906, and 14th September 1906?

(*b*) Having regard to the cost of living at the present day, will the Government be pleased to ameliorate their condition by raising their pay?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The attention of Government has been drawn to the letters and articles referred to. The Government are not prepared to adopt any general measures for raising the pay of Government servants.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

782 [XXVI] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that one Mr. G. Grove, a resident of Coonoor, was employed as a brewer for the last 27 years in Bangalore and on the Nilgiris, and that while working in the capacity of a recognised brewer in the Nilgiri Brewery his recognition as a brewer was withdrawn by the Board of Revenue?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state—

(1) the reasons which led to the withdrawal of his recognition as a brewer,

(2) whether the Government have received a memorial from Mr. Grove, and

(3) whether the Government will be pleased to consider his case favourably?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—The Board withdrew their recognition of Mr. Grove as a brewer with effect from 1st April 1906 in consequence of his conduct in regard to a license to manufacture malt-vinegar. The Government, after considering Mr. Grove's memorial, declined to interfere and see no reason now to reconsider that decision.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

783 [XXVII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the ryots of Molagavalli village in the Alúr taluk of the Bellary district have sent a memorial to the Government praying that the arrears of land revenue for the fasli years 1314 and 1315, the collection of which had been suspended on account of failure of crops, may be remitted altogether ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to consider the memorial favourably ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to the answer already given to Question No. II.*

* 758 *supra*, p. 266.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

784 [XXVIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to a letter under the heading of "A pathetic case" published in the *Hindu* of the 22nd August 1906, in which an Assistant Inspector of the Salt and Abkári department is alleged to have entered the house of the Salt Sub-Inspector of Kulittalai in the Trichinopoly district one midnight for the purpose of making a search when the Sub-Inspector was absent from his house and when his young wife alone was there, and thus indirectly caused the Sub-Inspector to commit suicide a few days afterwards ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to cause enquiries to be made with reference to the truth or otherwise of the allegations contained in the letter and do any other act which the Government may deem fit to take ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to Question No. XIV.†

† 770 *supra*, p. 272.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

785 [XXIX] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state why the claims of Mr. C. Sankaran Nayar who acted as a Judge of the High Court of Madras on three occasions were overlooked when a permanent vacancy to which he could have been appointed occurred ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the correspondence, if any, that passed between them and the Secretary of State with reference to the appointment of Mr. C. Sankaran Nayar to one of the permanent vacancies ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to Question No. X.‡

‡ 766 *supra*, p. 271.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

786 [XXX] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the system of issuing permits for bringing head-loads of firewood from the reserved forests has been discontinued by the Forest department in the town of Salem ?

(*b*) Having regard to the convenience enjoyed by the people from the permit system for head-loads, will the Government be pleased to direct the restoration of the permit system ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—(1) The answer is in the affirmative.

(2) Government are not prepared to direct a reversion to the permit system.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

787 [XXXI] *Question.*—(1) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the letters from Salem that appeared in the issues of the *Indian Patriot*, dated 2nd June 1906, 8th June 1906 and 13th June 1906, about the undue severity of the sentences passed by the Town Sub-Magistrate of Salem on offenders including women and children for offences against forest laws ?

(2) Are the allegations about the severity of the sentences contained in the letters true ?

(3) Will the Government be pleased to take steps to prevent the infliction of such sentences in future ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The attention of the Government has not been drawn to the matter, but the District Magistrate will be called upon to report.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

788 [XXXII] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state how much the village establishments in the permanently-settled tracts of this presidency to be maintained out of the Village Service fund are expected to cost and how much they are expected to cost the Government if no cess is levied under the law in force ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to adopt the requisite measures to abolish the village service cess in the tracts wherein it is levied at present and not to extend the operation of Act II of 1894 to other permanently-settled estates ?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to recommend the cause of the agriculturists in the said tracts to the Government of India that provision may be made in the next year's budget for the requisite funds ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member's attention is invited to paragraph 42 of the Financial Statement published in the *Gazette of India* Extraordinary of 21st March 1906. Until all the village service inams in proprietary estates have been settled and enfranchised throughout the presidency, the assets available therefrom for the remuneration of village servants in those estates cannot be ascertained. As the scale of village establishment is fixed partly with reference to the assets available, neither that scale nor the cost of the establishments can be stated until the enfranchisement operations are complete. The cost that would be involved in the abolition of the cess is thus unknown and in view of these difficulties its abolition was found impracticable. The Government cannot at present make any representation to the Government of India on the subject.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

789 [XXXIII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) Whether the village service cess was remitted during fasli 1315 only in respect of instalments which fell due after 31st March 1906 ?

(*b*) Whether in districts where all the instalments became due by 31st March 1906, such as Vizagapatam, etc., the whole amount of cess was collected causing inequality of assessment in the several districts of the presidency ?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to remit to pattadars in ryotwari tracts the cess collected from them during fasli 1315 and, if that be impracticable, a portion where the whole has been collected ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—As notified in the *Fort St. George Gazette* of 3rd April 1906, the ryotwari village service cess was abolished on the 1st April 1906. Any instalment of the cess which fell due before that date was therefore rightly collected, and the Government cannot undertake to remit any portion of the cess which became due before the date on which the cess was abolished.

The Hon'ble Mr. Narasimheswara Sarma :—

790 [XXXIV] *Question*.—With reference to the answer to my Question No. L * at the last meeting, will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether they have received the report of the Inspector-General of Registration; * 746 *supra*, p. 262.

(*b*) what steps they propose to take to remedy the evils complained of; and

(*c*) will the Government be pleased to place the report on the table?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The question is still under investigation by the Inspector-General of Registration and no report has yet been received. The Government understand that the Inspector-General has made extensive enquiries on the subject, the result of which has been that several of the societies of the kind referred to have been closed.

The Hon'ble Mr. Narasimheswara Sarma :—

791 [XXXV] *Question*.—Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the report proposed to be called for from the Collectors of Vizagapatam and Ganjám in answer to my Questions Nos. XLIV (*a*) to (*d*) and LI † at the last meeting of the Council? † 739 and 746 *supra*, pp. 260 and 262, respectively.

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—In answer to Question No. XLIV ‡ at the last meeting of the Council, the Honourable Member is informed that the subject of improvements to the port of Vizagapatam is under the consideration of the Government of India. The papers cannot at present be placed on the table. ‡ 739 *supra*, p. 260.

The answer to Question No. LI § at the last meeting of the Council is that a report has been received from the Collector. His attention has been drawn to the provisions of Board's Standing Order No. 111 and he has been directed to see that the fair market rate is paid. § 746 *supra*, p. 262.

The Hon'ble Mr. Narasimheswara Sarma :—

792 [XXXVI] *Question*.—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state how many primary schools receiving grant-in-aid at present from the Municipalities and Local Boards have been classed as "Elementary" and how many as "Secondary"?

(*b*) How much the elementary schools are expected to cost the Local Boards and Municipalities and how the Government propose to meet the additional cost, if any, to the Boards and Municipalities?

(*c*) Is the rule embodied in the new Educational rules that students who leave an elementary school for a secondary one can be placed only in the fourth class whatever may be the class in which they may have studied in an elementary school and the class examination they may have passed, not likely to (*a*) seriously handicap students in rural areas in the pursuit of secondary and higher education, (*b*) affect the stability and popularity of the elementary schools therein?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to modify the said rule subject to such safeguards, if any, as may be deemed necessary?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government have no information on the subject. The classification of schools into elementary and secondary under the new rules has not yet been finally completed.

(*b*) The Government have not been able as yet to obtain a forecast of the expenditure likely to be incurred from Local and Municipal funds on elementary schools. Local Boards and Municipalities will be aided by subsidies from Provincial funds to the extent to which the funds at the disposal of the department may permit. For the present the grant hitherto paid to schools aided on the results grant system will be continued. The Honourable Member is referred to note 1 on page 1 of the new Grant-in-aid Code and to rule 34.

(*c*) The Government do not think so. It is not intended that the elementary school should, like the former primary school, be regarded as the necessary feeder of the secondary school. The aims of the two kinds of schools are different and the character of the teaching in the one will be of a different order and quality from that in the other. It is therefore deemed essential in order that a boy may reap the full advantage of secondary training that he shall not join a secondary school at a higher stage than the fourth class.

It is the inefficiency generally of the present secondary schools that has mainly led Government to remodel the system so far as these schools are concerned in the hope of placing higher education on a sound basis from the start. The views of Government on the subject will be found set out in G.O., No. 509, Educational, dated 31st July 1906, a copy of which was placed on the Editors' Table.

(*d*) The Government, as at present advised, are not prepared to modify the rule.

The Hon'ble Mr. Narasimheswara Sarma :—

793 [XXXVII] *Question.*—(*a*) Whether crops such as chillies, brinjals and turmeric are watered only during a period not exceeding six months in the year in a large majority of, if not all, the holdings sown with such crops in the taluks of Tenali, Tanuku, Narasapur, Bhímavaram, Yernagúdem of the Guntúr and Kistna districts ?

(*b*) Whether the lands bearing such crops are charged with a water-rate of Rs. 10 an acre ?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to reduce the assessment to Rs. 5 an acre in the case of such lands ?

(*d*) Whether the Government would be pleased to give the ryots in the said taluks the option of applying for water for six months or more according to their particular needs ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) No general statement can be made as to the period during which the crops mentioned are watered, as the practice differs in regard to each crop and in different districts and parts of districts. Under the water-rate rules which are contained in the Appendix to Board's Standing Order No. 4, crops that take water for a number of months in a year sufficient for raising two rice crops are charged the water-rate leviable on two rice crops. The water-rate on crops which take water for a number of months sufficient for two rice crops cannot be reduced to Rs. 5 per acre, as that is the rate for a single rice crop.

(*d*) The suggestion made in this clause is not clearly understood, but under the water rate rules already referred to it is open to ryots to apply for water for a single crop only, or for two crops.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

794 [XXXVIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that wet cultivation is carried on right up to the margin of inhabited houses in numerous villages in the delta tracts of the Gódávari, Kistna and Guntúr districts?

(*b*) Is it a fact that village-sites and village commons are often insufficient and that the surroundings of villages are very insanitary especially during the rains?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to take steps to remedy the evil by acquiring land either at the cost of the Government or the villages concerned or by the adoption of such other measures as may be found expedient?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—The Government have no definite information on the subject. They do not doubt that in many villages wet cultivation has been brought by the inhabitants too near to human habitations; but they are unable at present to suggest any remedy.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

795 [XXXIX] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Government of India have passed orders on the proposals submitted to them in the matter of the scheme of technical and industrial education to be introduced into this presidency, and if any orders have been received, to place them on the table?

(*b*) If no orders have been passed yet, will the Government be pleased to request the Government of India to pass early orders on the subject?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The Government of India have not accepted the proposal of this Government to sever technical education from general education. They have however approved the appointment for a term of five years of a Director of Technical and Industrial Inquiries. This officer will not however work under the Educational Department.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

796 [XL] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state what schemes have been placed before them by the Department of Public Works and what steps they have resolved to take to reduce the flood levels in the Kolair lake?

(*b*) What sums have been spent by the Government during the last four years (1) to keep open the mouths of the discharge channels from the lake, (2) widen the Upputeru, (3) deepen the bed of the lake, (4) control the streams flowing into it, (5) or otherwise in connection with the conservancy thereof?

(*c*) If no schemes have been resolved upon for the purpose, will the Government be pleased to give early attention to the subject?

The Hon'ble Mr. Wilson :—

Answer.—(*a*) & (*c*) From time to time various schemes for dealing with the flood waters of the Kolair lake have been submitted to Government by the Department of Public Works, but, on investigation, they have had to be abandoned either on account of their prohibitive cost or of other difficulties in their execution.

(*b*) No information is available. The Superintending Engineer will be asked to submit a report.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

797 [XLI] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state if they have arrived at any decision with regard to the scheme for improving the agency in charge of the distribution of water in the delta tracts of Gódávari and Kistna, and if any plan has been resolved upon, will they be pleased to state what it is and when it would be introduced?

The Hon'ble Mr. Wilson :—

Answer.—The answer is in the affirmative. The revised scheme was introduced with effect from the 10th July 1905. A summary of the scheme will be laid on the table.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

798 [XLII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that when Subordinate Judges are promoted temporarily to a higher grade, the officers below are not placed in the grades falling vacant ?

(*b*) Are the said officers thereby deprived of any pecuniary allowances to which they would have been otherwise entitled ?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to grant grade promotions to the said officers when temporary vacancies occur ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—Officiating promotions amongst the grades of Subordinate Judges are inadmissible under the rules of the Civil Service Regulations which the local Government have no power to alter.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

799 [XLIII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of making the grant of aid to educational institutions conditional on the managers thereof allowing complete freedom to the parents or guardians of pupils in the matter of their wards receiving such religious instruction as may be imparted therein ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—In the present circumstances of the country the Government do not consider that the condition implied in the question can be imposed.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

800 [XLIV] *Question*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the ryots of Molagavalli, Alur taluk, Bellary district, have to pay during the current fasli the rents for this year and the rents for faslis 1314 and 1315, the collection of which has been suspended ?

(*b*) Have the said ryots sent in a petition to the Government complaining of successive bad seasons and their inability to pay the suspended kists and has any enquiry been made ?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to remit the arrears in the case of pattadars of the said village and others similarly circumstanced ?

(*d*) If complete remission be not practicable, will the Government be pleased to remit at least a portion thereof ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—(*a*) It is a fact that the collection of assessments due in the village mentioned for faslis 1314 and 1315 was suspended. Orders regarding the collection of the suspended revenue have not yet been passed.

(*b*), (*c*) & (*d*) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply already given to Question No. 11.*

* 758 *supra*, p. 266.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

801 [XLV] *Question*—(*a*) Is a second crop rate charged in the Kistna or Guntúr district where only one wet crop is raised and harvested during the year and that in April, and no wet crop usually harvested in December is raised by reason of the ryot finding it impracticable to do so owing to the saline character of the soil ?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to remit the same and levy only the consolidated wet assessment ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—(*a*) Government believe the fact to be as stated.

(*b*) Orders have lately been issued to levy in future only the consolidated wet assessment except when the crop is classed as duffassal.

The Hon'ble Mr. GURUSWAMI AIYAR :—

802 [XLVI] *Question*—(*a*) Will Government be pleased to state if they do not consider that the time has already arrived for investing more District Boards than at present with the privilege of electing their Vice-Presidents ?

(*b*) With a view to allowing a larger share of responsibility in local self-government to the nominees of the people, will Government be pleased to call upon the several District Boards not yet enjoying the said privilege to communicate their desire in the matter and consider their applications if any for the privilege sympathetically and favourably ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—No District Board at present elects its own Vice-President. No application has been received by Government from any District Board requesting that the privilege in question may be conferred upon it. Any application which a District Board may make will be considered on its merits. The Government do not consider it necessary to make any special reference to District Boards in the matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. GURUSWAMI AIYAR :—

803 [XLVII] *Question*.—(*a*) In connection with the failure of Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co. are Government aware—

(1) how much money has been lost,

(2) how many families have been rendered helpless,

(3) what public or charitable institutions have sustained losses and to what extent,

(4) what approximately is the extent of the firm's indebtedness and what the value of its assets,

(5) what cause or causes have brought about the insolvency and how long the firm's affairs have been drifting towards it,

(6) what relationship has the firm had with the British firm of Messrs. Macfadyen & Co. and to what extent that firm has involved the Indian firm in loss,

(7) when the accounts of Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co. were last audited and what was its last balance sheet,

(8) what withdrawals of deposits if any and to what extent have taken place from, and how much investment has been received by, the firm during the last one year ?

(*b*) If not, will Government be pleased, in the extraordinary situation brought about by such a colossal failure and in order to allay the panic caused thereby, to employ its own agency apart from that of the Bankruptcy Court to investigate the matter aforesaid promptly and effectually both in India and elsewhere and ascertain the conduct, transactions and assets of the firm ?

(*c*) Has Government's attention been drawn to the letter of Mr. V. Krishnaswami Aiyar appearing in the *Hindu* of the 1st instant, and will Government be pleased to state if any and what Judges of the High Court have had transactions with the firm as alleged therein ?

(*d*) In view of the wide business ramifications of the firm and the magnitude of the task of administering its insolvency, among other grounds, will Government be pleased to move the Government of India to undertake special legislation on the lines suggested by Mr. V. Krishnaswami Aiyar or otherwise ?

(*e*) Do Government propose to give pecuniary or any other form of relief to the families of their deceased servants or any others rendered destitute and helpless by the catastrophe ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co. being a private firm the Government have no information or means of obtaining it as to the several points raised.

(*b*) The Honourable Member is referred to the answer to the Hon'ble Mr. Krishnan Nayar's Question No. XV (*b*).*

* 771 *supra*, p. 278.

(*c*) The Government have now perused the letter referred to. The Government have no information in the matter.

(*d*) The Government do not consider it advisable to move the Government of India in the manner suggested.

(*e*) The Government do not intend to make any grants of pecuniary help from the public funds to persons injured by the failure of the firm referred to.

The Hon'ble Mr. GURUSWAMI AIYAR :—

804 [XLVIII] *Question.*—(*a*) With reference to rules 22 and 24 of their rules regulating the personal conduct of Government servants (*vide* 3rd edition), will Government be pleased to state if it is intended to prohibit investments by the officers referred to therein with Indian firms, Indian bankers, etc., while allowing the same with British firms?

(*b*) If so, will Government be pleased to state if such prohibition does not go beyond the provision contained in rule 7 of the rules of the Government of India as published in 1904 on the subject?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to state their intention and policy clearly and modify the language of the rules so as to avoid all racial distinction?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to Question No. XVI.†

† 772 *supra*, p. 273.

The Hon'ble Mr. GURUSWAMI AIYAR :—

805 [XLIX] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the Government's attention been drawn to the speech of the Zamindar of Singampatti delivered on the 20th June last at Palamcottah as Chairman of the reception committee of the XIV Madras Provincial Conference and to the suggestion made by him therein that the representative of the zamindars in this Council may be allowed to be elected by those at least whose estates are scheduled as impartible to the Impartible Estates Act?

(*b*) Will His Excellency the Governor be pleased to make nominations henceforth to the zamindari seat on the recommendation of that community expressed in the manner suggested in the said speech or in any other way that His Excellency may think fit to prescribe?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government have now perused the speech referred to.

(*b*) The matter is in the discretion of His Excellency the Governor.

The Hon'ble Mr. SIVASWAMI AIYAR :—

806 [L] *Question.*—(*a*) Are the Government aware of the extent of loss among Government servants caused by the failure of Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co., and if not, will the Government be pleased to call for information on the point?

(*b*) In view of the loss and hardship caused to Government servants by the failure of Banking firms and the stringency of the rules for the conduct of Government servants in regard to the investment of their savings, will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of relaxing those rules by allowing Government servants to invest their savings with Indian firms or lend to landholders in the districts of which they are natives and in which they would ordinarily not be employed by Government on account of their owning landed property or having other connections?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to the answer to Question No. XVI. * * 772 supra p. 273.

The Hon'ble Mr. SIVASWAMI AIYAR :—

807 [LI] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that in Uriya schools in the Ganjám district Telugu teachers with little or no knowledge of Uriya are appointed as teachers in the lower classes and that the education of Uriya children suffers in consequence?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to order that, in the Uriya-speaking tracts of Ganjám and Vizagapatam, Uriyas who have passed the Entrance examination of the Calcutta University might be entertained as teachers?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—The Government are not aware that the allegations made in the first part of the question are correct. They will be prepared to consider the suggestion made in the second part.

The Hon'ble Mr. SIVASWAMI AIYAR :—

808 [LII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that a tract of hill waste land consisting of nearly 100 acres and adjoining the village of Perumbakkam in the Saidapet taluk has been recently converted into a reserved forest and that the ryots of the village are put to serious hardship by the refusal of permits for grazing their cattle, by the impounding of cattle straying into the forest and by prosecution of the ryots for allowing the cattle to stray?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to order that the said tract shall cease to be reserved?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—(*a*) No area near Perumbakkam village has recently been reserved. Of the three reserves in that neighbourhood, two were constituted in 1890 and one in 1898, and no complaint regarding these reserves has been received by Government.

(*b*) The answer is in the negative.

The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur GOVINDARAGHAVA AIYAR :—

809 [LIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the leading article in the *Hindu* of the 14th September 1906 and a leaderette that appeared in the *Hindu* of the 27th October 1906 under the heading "Public Servants and Grain Allowance"?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to grant temporary relief to all the low-paid Government servants by ordering grain allowance to be given as laid down in the Civil Account Code?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to the answer already given to Question No. XXIV. † † 780 supra, p. 276.

The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur GOVINDARAGHAVA AIYAR :—

810 [LIV] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it true that, in view of the increased cost of living obtaining nowadays, the low-paid clerks in some of the offices under the Collector of Madras and the Collector of Sea Customs and the clerks of the Civil and Judicial department of the Salem district have memorialized Government for an increase of pay?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to favourably consider their representation?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick :—

Answer.—(*a*) The only representation on the subject recently received by Government has been a duplicate copy of petitions submitted by the clerks of the Madras Stationery office, the original of which will be forwarded in due course by the Superintendent of Stationery.

(*b*) This representation will receive consideration when it reaches Government.

The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur GOVINDARAGHAVA AIYAR :—

811 [LV] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the average number of trailer cars of the Madras Electric Tramway running up and down per day on the Barber's Bridge and Royapettah sections for the years 1902 to 1904 and 1906 ?

(*b*) Is it true that a Committee of the Corporation of Madras, to whom the question of diverting the tramway from the Chintadripet roads was referred, came to the conclusion that an additional line should be laid by the Penitentiary and Body Guard lines ? If this be so, will the Government be pleased to state what action was taken thereon ?

(*c*) Are the Government aware that the grievances of the residents of Chintadripet have become greater by the Mylapore extension since sanctioned ? What steps will the Government be pleased to take to remedy the same ?

(*d*) Have the Government received a memorial from the residents of Chintadripet setting forth their grievances and praying in particular for the prohibition of the use of trailers and the widening of the southern end of Swami Naick's Street? If so, what orders have been passed thereon ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Wilson :—

Answer.—(*a*) Government are informed that the average number of trailer cars running on the Barber's Bridge section during the years mentioned was as follows :—

1902 to 1904	2
1906	4

Trailers have not been used up to the present on the Royapettah section.

(*b*) Government understand that the matter has been discussed by a Committee and that their report is being considered by the Corporation. The views of the Corporation have not yet been communicated to Government.

(*c*) & (*d*) A memorial from the residents of Chintadripet has been received. Government await the views of the Corporation of Madras thereon before passing orders.

The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur GOVINDARAGHAVA AIYAR :—

812 [LVI] *Question.*—(*a*) With regard to the Tramway-Railway collision at Periamet on the 18th of August, will the Government be pleased to state the numbers of passengers who were in the Cars Nos. 59 and 42 at the time of the collision and the number of those who were on the foot-boards at the time ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state how many deaths occurred in consequence of such collision and whether such deaths were due to the negligence of the Tramway Company in allowing the cooly passengers to sit on the foot-boards, and will the Government be pleased to state what steps are to be taken to prevent the occurrence of such accidents ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Wilson :—

Answer.—(*a*) Government have not been informed of the number of passengers who were in the Cars Nos. 59 and 42 and the number of those who were on the foot-boards when the collision took place at Periamet on the 18th of August.

(*b*) Government regret that the accident caused the deaths of three boys. Government are unable to express any opinion regarding the negligence of the Tramway Company or its officials as the matter is in the hands of the Court. The question of the best means of preventing such accidents is now under investigation.

The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur GOVINDARAGHAVA AIYAR:—

813 [LVII] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to an article in the *Madras Standard* of the 24th October headed "Strange doings of the Maternity Hospital"?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to cause enquiries to be made as to how far the charges against the officer in question are exaggerated and take notice of his conduct?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick:—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to the answer to Question No. XVIII *.

* 774 supra p. 274.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA:—

814 [LVIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been invited to the judgments of the Sessions Judge of Cuddapah in the Kódúru Railway collision case?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to take steps to see—

(1) that in future joint enquiries where necessary are presided over by independent Judicial officers unconnected with the Railway administration;

(2) to secure a more effectual check than at present obtains to prevent the trains running unduly late;

(3) that the station staff are not overworked and that very old men are not allowed to remain in service?

The Hon'ble Mr. Wilson:—

Answer.—(*a*) The attention of Government has been drawn to the judgments of the Sessions Judge of Cuddapah in the Kódúru Railway collision case.

(*b*) (1) The District Magistrate, Government Inspector of Railways and the Superintendent, Government Railway Police, receive notice of all joint enquiries and where necessary attend themselves or send their Deputies. The District Magistrate is empowered to himself make a judicial enquiry into the causes which led to the accident and may obtain the assistance of the Government Inspector of Railways. The attention of all District Magistrates will be called to their duties as defined in the Railway Act and their powers thereunder.

(2) & (3) Government consider that these matters may be left to the Railway Board who are in possession of full information regarding the Kódúru accident and are taking such action as they consider necessary.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESHWARA SARMA:—

815 [LIX] *Question.*—Having regard to the magnitude and the widespread character of the losses sustained in this presidency especially by public servants owing to the failure of Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co., will the Government be pleased to take steps—

(*a*) to render help in realizing fully the assets of the Company,

(*b*) to minimise the cost incidental to the collection of the said assets,

(*c*) to render assistance in deserving cases where complete ruin has been the result of the bankruptcy,

(*d*) to enable Government servants to secure their savings in the Post Office Savings Bank in larger amounts than is at present allowable, and

(*e*) to investigate fully the causes which led to the bankruptcy?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick:—

Answer.—(*a*), (*b*), (*c*) & (*e*) The Honourable Member is referred to the answer to Question No. XLVII †.

† 803 supra, p. 283.

(*d*) The matter is not within the province of the Local Government.

23. MEETING OF THE 22ND JANUARY 1907.

The Hon'ble Mr. SIVASWAMI AIYAR :—

816 [I] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that for over a century the Vadagarai channel in the Madura taluk used to take off directly from the Vaigai river at the old Peranai dam and irrigate directly or indirectly wet lands in the villages of Sholavandan, Sholakurichi, Pettai, Erumbalei, Karuppattai, Vilampatti, etc., and that this state of things continued till the construction of the Periyár main channel ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that about 2,000 acres in these villages were fed directly from the Vadagarai channel, about 2,650 acres by the Vadagarai tank which is fed by the Vadagarai channel, and about 4,000 acres by the surplus in Calingula channel ?

(*c*) Is it a fact that since the construction of the Periyár main channel the Vadagarai channel is not directly fed from the Vaigai but is supplied by a branch from the Periyár main channel at a distance of about 4 furlongs from the old Peranai dam ; and that in consequence the Vadagarai channel has ceased to derive the usual benefit from the rain and spring waters flowing in the Vaigai ?

(*d*) Is it a fact that owing to the late admission of water into the Periyár channel during the summer months and the loss of the customary supply of rain and spring water the kodai cultivation in the villages referred to has been either considerably delayed or greatly affected ?

(*e*) Is it a fact that as early as the year 1900 the ryots of the above villages appealed to the Executive Engineer and the Collector of Madura and the Government to connect the Vadagarai channel with the Vaigai or to take such other steps as may secure to the Vadagarai channel the benefit of the rain and spring waters of the Vaigai ?

(*f*) Will the Government be pleased to order an estimate to be made of the cost of connecting the Vadagarai channel directly with the Vaigai or making arrangements for the use of the existing regulator with iron uprights at the head of the branch now feeding the Vadagarai channel so that the ryots may have the benefit of the rain and spring water of the Vaigai during the summer months when the Periyár head works are closed ?

(*g*) In view of the fact that the Vadagarai channel has been directly fed by the Vaigai for over a century and that the lands down the Periyár main channel have only recently been allowed the use of the water, will the Government be pleased to recognise the prior claims of the lands dependent upon the Vadagarai channel by granting the request of the ryots of the above villages ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Wilson :—

Answer—(*a*) & (*b*) The Government are not prepared to vouch for the accuracy of the facts as stated in clauses (*a*) and (*b*) of the question.

(*c*) The Vadagarai channel is supplied by a sluice in the Periyár main channel bank, and the general condition of the lands under the channel has been much improved thereby.

(*d*) In the opinion of Government, it is not a fact that the kodai cultivation has been either considerably delayed or greatly affected by the change in method of supply. On the contrary, the general condition of the lands under the channel has been much improved thereby.

(*e*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*f*) & (*g*) It is not practicable to connect the channel directly with the river, but the question of allowing into the channel the rain and spring waters of the Vaigai during the closure of the Periyár head works will be considered when the regulating works constructed at the Peranai anicut, have been in operation for a sufficiently long time to effect a reduction in the excessive silting at the head of the Periyár main channel.

The Hon'ble Raja VIRABHADRA RAZU Bahadur of Kurupam :—

817 [II] *Question.*—(*a*) Have Government received a memorial from the tax-payers of Waltair and some other portions of the Municipality of Vizagapatam praying for supply of water from the Vizagapatam water-works scheme, and proposing several projects by which this may be effected ?

(*b*) Are Government aware that the memorialists have been paying water-tax at half rates to the Municipality for more than eight years without deriving any corresponding benefit whatever in the shape of water-supply ?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to state what steps they have taken or propose to take for complying with the request of the memorialists ?

(*d*) Will Government be pleased to order a suspension of the above-mentioned tax pending supply of water to all the properties on which it has now been levied ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government have received a memorial on the subject from certain residents of Waltair.

(*b*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*c*) The question of investigating the possibility of a supply of water to Waltair has, on the recommendation of the Municipal Council of Vizagapatam, been referred to the Sanitary Engineer for investigation.

(*d*) The Government are not prepared to order a suspension of the tax referred to.

The Hon'ble Raja VIRABHADRA RAZU Bahadur of Kurupam :—

818 [III] *Question.*—(*a*) Will Government be pleased to consider the desirability of discontinuing the present practice of sending minors under Court of Wards once a year to Ootacamund ?

(*b*) If, in the opinion of Government, a periodical change from Madras is indispensable for the minors, will Government be pleased to consider the desirability of sending them to Coimbatore where their stay can be turned to very useful account by frequent contact with the Agricultural College and its Experimental Farms ?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to arrange with the Inspector of Schools, Madras Circle, or some other Government Educational officer of equal rank to inspect the Madras Newington school periodically as is done in the case of schools under the Grant-in-Aid Code and report on the progress made by the Court of Wards' minors in their studies and formation of character ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—(*a*) & (*b*) The Government do not propose to lay down any fixed rule regarding the locality where the minors shall spend their annual vacation. When the new Agricultural Research Institute and Farm at Coimbatore are in working order, the question of the vacation or part of it being sometimes spent there will be considered.

(*c*) The question of adding the Director of Public Instruction to the Committee of Visitors of Newington will be taken into consideration.

The Hon'ble Raja VIRABHADRA RAZU Bahadur of Kurupam :—

819 [IV] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the Khonds and Savaras of the hills of the Ganjám and Vizagapatam Agency have very few shandies at convenient centres where they can expose the agricultural produce of their hills for sale, and that as a consequence they barter the same with the Sowcar for articles of food such as salt or dry fish of little or no value ?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to direct the District Boards of Ganjám and Vizagapatam to make special provision of funds in their budgets for the purpose of opening and encouraging shandies at convenient centres so as to afford to the hill cultivators an easy and profitable market for the produce of their labour ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government have no specific information on the subject but will refer the matter to the Government Agents for report. They believe that a sufficient number of markets or "hâts" for hill produce exist at convenient centres in the hill tracts of Vizagapatam, and it is doubtful whether, if endeavours were made to open additional markets, they would be resorted to by the hillmen.

(*b*) The Madras Local Boards Act V of 1884 was only introduced into certain portions of the hill tracts of Vizagapatam on 1st April 1905. It does not extend to the Savara or Kuttiya Khond Hills of the Jeypur zamindari. In the Ganjám district, the Act is in force only in 122 low country villlages of the Parlákimedi Agency.

The Hon'ble Raja VASUDEVA RAJA Valia Nambidi of Kollengode :—

820 [V] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the fact that, in this presidency, Deputy Collectors drawing Rs. 500 and less, rank as second-class officers in respect of travelling allowances ?

(*b*) Do officers of other departments of corresponding rank, such as Superintendents of Post offices, Assistant Superintendent in the Telegraph department and Assistant Superintendents of Police, rank as first-class officers even when their pay does not exceed Rs. 500 ?

(*c*) Is it a fact that, in Bengal and in the United Provinces, Deputy Magistrates and Collectors in charge of sub-divisions rank as first-class officers ?

(*d*) Will Government be pleased to move the Government of India to grant to the members of the Provincial Service in charge of sub-divisions in this presidency the same concession as has been granted in the two other provinces mentioned above ?

(*e*) In the case of Inspectors of Salt and Abkári Revenue who are in independent charge of circles, will Government be pleased to recommend the grant of a similar concession ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) The Honourable Member is referred to article 1002 and Appendix No. 18, Civil Service Regulations.

(*d*) & (*e*) The Government are not prepared to address the Government of India on the subject.

The Hon'ble Raja VASUDEVA RAJA Valia Nambidi of Kollengode :—

821 [VI] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that Deputy Tahsildars in charge of sub-divisions of taluks have to put in a touring of ten days every month and that they draw no travelling allowance for their touring ?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to consider the advisability of granting to Deputy Tahsildars the same rate of travelling allowance, namely, one rupee per diem, as is now granted to Tahsildars ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

615 *supra*, p. 215.

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to the answer to Question No. XXI* put by the Hon'ble Mr. Krishnan Nayar at the Legislative Council Meeting held on 21st March 1905.

The Hon'ble Raja VASUDEVA RAJA Valia Nambidi of Kollengode :—

822 [VII] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the leading article in the *Hindu* of the 17th December 1906 containing a proposal to start a land-bank for the purpose mainly of financing zamindars ?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to cause an enquiry to be made regarding the practicability of the suggestion and to consider if a bank like that, when organized, can be given concessions such as those suggested by the writer of the article ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—The Government have now perused the article referred to. They are not prepared at present to institute the enquiry suggested.

The Hon'ble Raja VASUDEVA RAJA Valia Nambidi of Kollengode :—

823 [VIII] *Question*.—(*a*) Is it a fact that the tables of prices of products, the cost of cultivating paddy, planting, protecting and maintaining trees and plants, the preparation of which is contemplated under section 15 of the Madras Act No. I of 1900 (Malabar Tenants' Improvements Act), have not been prepared and published till now?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to cause such tables to be now prepared for the different taluks in Malabar after due enquiry?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) In 1900 the Government considered the question of publishing tables under section 15 of the Act and decided that their publication should be deferred until experience had been gained of the working of the Act. The Board of Revenue will be asked to report whether the preparation of the tables should now be taken in hand.

The Hon'ble Raja VASUDEVA RAJA Valia Nambidi of Kollengode :—

824 [IX] *Question*.—(*a*) Is it a fact that the Government assessment on lands in Malabar that are held under kanam demise by tenants who have agreed to pay the assessment themselves is recovered from the janmis?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to enquire of the Collector of Malabar whether difficulty is experienced by him as the agent of the Court of Wards in respect to the assessment due from the tenants of the estates under his management?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to consider the advisability of giving janmis power to realize those dues from the tenants by summary process?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the provisions of sections 13, 14 and 15 of Madras Act III of 1896. Under section 14 it is open to janmis to apply to the Collector for the joint registration of their tenants and after such registration arrears of revenue are recoverable from the tenant. The Government cannot take cognizance of any private arrangement between janmis and tenants who have neglected to take advantage of this provision of law.

(*b*) The Government see no reason to make the enquiry.

(*c*) The Government are not prepared to undertake legislation in the particular direction suggested.

The Hon'ble Raja VASUDEVA RAJA Valia Nambidi of Kollengode :—

825 [X] *Question*.—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a resolution passed at the last Madras Educational Conference asking that an officer of the department of Public Instruction be appointed to consult with representative educationists as to the possibility of drawing up a provident scheme for teachers working in schools under private management?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to consider the proposal favourably?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government have now perused the resolution referred to as reported in the *Madras Mail*.

(*b*) No formal request has been received by Government on the subject of th resolution in question.

The Hon'ble Raja VASUDEVA RAJA Valia Nambidi of Kollengode :—

826 [XI] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it true that the Collector of Malabar has recently issued an order to the effect that in no case shall a vakalath presented to a village adhikari for registration be so registered unless the party presents a written application to the adhikari soliciting registration ?

(*b*) Is the above order in conformity with the Village Officers' Manual ? If so, will Government be pleased to consider the propriety of relaxing the rule ?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to issue instructions authorizing assistant adhikaris in the Malabar district to attest the execution of vakalaths ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government have no information.

(*b*) The order appears to be in accordance with the Village Officers' Manual. The Government see no sufficient reason to alter it.

(*c*) The matter will be referred to the Collector of Malabar for report.

The Hon'ble Mr. SIVASWAMI AIYAR :—

827 [XII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that some time ago the Secretary to the Board of Revenue (Separate Revenue) issued a circular order whereby the right of office subordinates to present petitions to him was disallowed on the ground that he could not waste his time in reading their petitions, and that any representations which they may have to make should be made in person ?

(*b*) If this be true, will the Government be pleased to direct the revocation of the order of the Secretary ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—No such circular order as is described in the Honourable Member's question has been issued. The order apparently referred to was an endorsement on a petition of an individual clerk asking for promotion and was in the following terms :—*If clerks have anything to say to Secretary they can come and see him. I won't have time wasted on petition writing.* The Government see no reason to direct the revocation of this endorsement.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

828 [XIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to place on the table the report from the Collector of Vizagapatam proposed to be called for in answer to my Question No. XLV (*a*) to (*d*) * at the Council meeting held on 6th April 1906 if any report has been received, and the papers relating to the investigation of the project for impounding the Varaha river at Koppaka and the enlargement of the Kondakarla áva ?

* 740 *supra*, p. 260.

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to take steps to place the irrigation of the Yellamanchili taluk, Vizagapatam district, on a satisfactory footing ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Wilson :—

Answer.—(*a*) G.O., No. 895, Revenue, dated 13th September 1906, containing the Collector's report referred to in the first part of the question has already been published and will now be placed on the Council table. The Government do not, however, consider that any useful purpose will be achieved by placing on the table the papers connected with the proposal to enlarge the Kondakarla áva. There are no papers at the disposal of Government regarding the scheme for impounding the Varaha river at or near the Koppaka anicut, but it is understood that the benefits likely to be received from such impounding are incommensurate with the probable cost of the work.

(*b*) The works recently carried out or still in progress for the improvement of the irrigation of Yellamanchili taluk have been detailed in the reply to Question No. XLV † by the Honourable Member at the meeting of the Council held on 6th April 1906. Government propose to see the effect of these works before considering further expenditure.

† *Ibid.*

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

829 [XIV] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased—

(*a*) to place on the table their proposals submitted to the Government of India for the promotion of technical and industrial education in this presidency and the orders of the Government of India on the subject?

(*b*) to state what further measures they intend to adopt to provide facilities for the imparting of such education in this presidency?

(*c*) to establish a superior technical college in the province?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government are unable to lay on the table the correspondence with the Government of India on the subject.

(*b*) & (*c*) With regard to practical instruction in industries and trades, the Government have recently appointed a special officer as Director of Technical and Industrial Inquiries, whose duty it will be to introduce improved methods of technique in promising industries and establish institutions in which such methods will be explained and instruction imparted therein. But such practical instruction is not technical education in the proper sense which is confined to instruction in the principles of science and art applicable to industries and instruction also in the application of special branches of science and art to specific industries and employments. It thus presupposes a preliminary acquaintance with Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry or other subject of theoretical study which may be applicable to the industry in which technical instruction is sought. There are at present in the presidency 54 technical schools or schools with a technical class or classes under the Educational department, which are aided or maintained by Government who allot 180 scholarships of different grades for pupils attending these schools. There are also six Government scholarships for post-graduate study.

For technical education of a higher description there are the Engineering College, the College of Agriculture and the School of Arts, all of which institutions are shortly to be reorganized. The Government do not propose at present to establish in the presidency any other superior technical college, there being little actual demand for superior technical education. The attention of the Honourable Member is also invited to G.Os., No. 46, dated 27th January 1906, and No. 630, dated 26th September 1906—both published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, regarding the technical scholarships of £150 a year offered by the Government to young men who desire to avail themselves in Europe of technical education in industries. The very small number of qualified candidates who have applied for these scholarships is disappointing.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

830 [XV] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been invited to the resolution No. 4 passed at the 15th Kistna-Guntúr Conference held at Nuzvid urging the desirability of restoring to Masulipatam and Ellore the franchise of electing three-fourths of the members of their Municipal Councils and the privilege of electing their Chairman and giving to Bezwada a larger proportion of elected councillors and the privilege of electing its Chairman?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to consider the request made at the Conference?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government have now perused the resolution as reported in the *Hindu* of June 12th, 1906.

(*b*) The Government will consider in due course any proposals that may be submitted to them by the Municipal Councils.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

831 [XVI] *Question.*—(*a*) Have the ryots in Kistna and Guntúr districts been utilising for a long time free of charge river water to flood saline soils after the crops are cut?

(*b*) Have the said ryots been charged water-rate recently for the use of such water, and will the Government be pleased to remit the same?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member's attention is invited to Rule IV of the Rules regulating the levy of water-rate on ryotwari dry land in portions of the Gódávari and Kistna districts, which form Appendix I-C to Board's Standing Order No. 4. The Government have no further information on the subject.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

832 [XVII] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been called to a letter under the heading of "An illegal exaction in Malabar" published in the *Indian Patriot* of the 28th September 1906?

(*b*) Are the allegations made therein with reference to the improper collection of toll at Manjéri true?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to take steps to prevent the collection of such toll in future?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—The Government have now perused the letter in question. Under G.O., No. 435 L., dated 3rd April 1903, the establishment at Manjéri of "a new toll with four gates" was sanctioned so as to catch traffic coming to Manjéri by all four roads. Provision was made for the payment of a toll at any one of the four gates clearing the animal or vehicle concerned at the other gates within the same period of 24 hours calculated from sunrise to sunrise—*vide* notification published on page 127 of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, Part I-A, dated 7th April 1903. In sanctioning these four gates the Government directed that arrangements should be made for the exemption from payment of tolls of purely local carriages, *i.e.*, carriages owned by persons residing in and within a radius of three miles from the town of Manjéri.

The attention of the President, District Board, Malabar, will be drawn to the letter referred to and he will no doubt correct any irregularity that may have occurred.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

833 [XVIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to an article in the *Hindu* of the 14th December 1906 about the conduct of the Sub-Magistrate of Tuticorin who is alleged to have tried and convicted one Murugayya for certain offences referred to in the article without giving the accused an opportunity of defending himself and adducing his evidence?

(*b*) Are the facts mentioned in the article true?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to take steps to prevent the occurrence of such acts in future?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—The Government have now perused the article; but they see no sufficient reason to call for a report as to the truth of the allegations made in the newspaper quoted. The appellate and revisional courts are open to the person who was convicted, if he has any ground of complaint regarding the procedure adopted.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

834 [XIX] *Question.*—Adverting to my Question No. XVII * asked at the meeting of this Council on the 13th of November 1906, and its answer by Government, will the Government be pleased to state whether a resurvey of the Parappanangadi amsam of the Ernad taluk in the Malabar district has been ordered ? * 773 supra, p. 274.

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—The Government have not ordered a resurvey of the amsam mentioned.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

835 [XX] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to an article under the heading of "Season and Crop" published in the *Hindu* of the 3rd November 1906 ?

(*b*) Have the District authorities offered explanation for the rise in the price of food-grains and submitted reports on the state of the people and the condition of their districts during the last year ?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to lay such reports on the table ?

(*d*) Do the Government think of revising the existing normal, warning and scarcity rates, and will the Government be pleased to state the reasons which induce them to do so ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government have now perused the article referred to.

(*b*) & (*c*) A report was received from the Board of Revenue on the state of the season in the Coimbatore district, and a copy of it will now be laid on the table.

(*d*) The revision of the "normal," "warning" and "scarcity" rates of grain prices is now under consideration because the existing rates are fixed on data commencing over thirty years ago and no longer correctly representing existing conditions.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

836 [XXI] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to an editorial article that was published in the *Indian Patriot* of the 15th December 1906 and to a letter that was published in the same newspaper in its issue of the 24th December 1906 under the heading "Office hours of attendance" ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that in many of the Government offices in Madras and in the mufassal clerks are often obliged to work for about 8 or 9 hours a day ?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to increase the number of clerks or take any other steps that may seem necessary to Government ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—The Government have now perused the article and letter referred to. No special inquiries have been made as to the number of hours the clerical establishments have to work, but it is no doubt true that these may have to attend over the usual office hours when the exigencies of the service require it. The Government are always prepared to consider favourably applications for additional establishment when it is shown that an office is undermanned, and funds are forthcoming to strengthen it.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

837 [XXII] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a lecture on "The Leper Question in India" delivered at Calicut by Mr. C. Bailey and reported in the *Madras Mail* of the 7th December 1906 ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to take steps to bring the Lepers Act into force in this presidency ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—(*a*) The attention of Government has now been drawn to the lecture as reported in the *Madras Mail.*

(*b*) The introduction of the Lepers Act has been frequently considered by Government, but they are not satisfied that at present its extension to this presidency is called for.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

838 [XXIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Have the Government received a memorial addressed to the Secretary of State for India by Meethangatt Kunnummal Kunhunni *alias* Valiya Nambiyar of Pánúr, Kóttayam taluk, Malabar district, about a claim to a malikhana allowance due to him from Government?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to favourably endorse the memorial?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—The memorial has been received and has already been transmitted to the Government of India.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

* 810 *supra*, p. 286.

839 [XXIV] *Question.*—Adverting to Question LIV * asked at the meeting of this Council on the 13th November 1906 and its answer by Government, will the Government be pleased to state whether the Superintendent of Stationery, Madras, has forwarded to Government the original petitions of the clerks of the Madras Stationery Office referred to in the answer and what consideration the Government have bestowed on these petitions?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—The petitions referred to have not as yet been forwarded to the Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

840 [XXV] *Question.*—(*a*) Have the Government recently received a memorial from the residents of McGasken Street, Appiah Muthu Street, Chembadapilliar Street, Mint Street (entrance from Memorial Hall), Wall-Tax Road up to Post Office, John Pereira's Road, protesting against the proposal of the Madras Railway Company to acquire that locality for purposes of erecting the Company's General offices?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to consider the memorial favourably?

The Hon'ble Mr. Wilson :—

Answer.—(*a*) Government have recently received the memorial referred to.

(*b*) A similar petition from the occupants of the houses on the land in question was considered by Government before it was decided to acquire the land. No new arguments have been put forward and Government regret that they are unable to consider the memorial favourably.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

841 [XXVI] *Question.*—(*a*) Have the Government received a memorial from the merchants, dhonie-owners and other inhabitants of Point Calimere and the neighbouring places in the Tanjore district, praying for the adoption of the Point Calimere-Jaffna route for Indo-Ceylon traffic of all descriptions in preference to the Rámésvaram-Mannar route?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to consider the memorial favourably?

The Hon'ble Mr. Wilson :—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) The memorial has not yet received consideration.

The Hon'ble Mr. Krishnan Nayar :—

842 [XXVII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the annual income derived from the Copying department of the Civil Courts in the presidency is much in excess of its annual expenditure, thus leaving a large surplus every year?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased, after consultation with the High Court, either to reduce the charges for granting copies to parties or to increase the pay or remuneration of the officers employed in the Copying department?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—(*a*) From the latest figures available it appears that the income from the Copying department of the Civil Courts is not much in excess of its expenditure.

(*b*) The scale of fees for copies is laid down by the High Court under rules made under section 652 of the Code of Civil Procedure. Their reduction is a matter for the High Court.

The Hon'ble Mr. Guruswami Aiyar :—

843 [XXVIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Has Government's attention been drawn to the complaint in the article headed "Special Test Examinations" in the *Madras Mail* of the 6th December and to similar complaints in previous papers?

(*b*) In view of the frequency of such complaints regarding the setting and valuation of papers, the minima of marks insisted, and other matters, will Government be pleased to undertake a revision of the regulations on the subject and call for suggestions for the purpose from the officers concerned?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—The Government have now perused the article referred to in the *Madras Mail* of the 6th December 1906. The Government have no reason to believe that the complaints are well founded. In another connection, however, the Government have under consideration the scope of the Special Test Examinations.

The Hon'ble Mr. Guruswami Aiyar :—

844 [XXIX] *Question.*—(*a*) Have Government received a memorial from the merchants, dhonie-owners and other inhabitants of Point Calimere, Védáranniyam and Tópputturai in the Tanjore district protesting against the proposal to connect India and Ceylon by the Pámban-Mannar route and requesting *port improvement*, *railway connection and other facilities* for reviving the Point Calimere-Jaffna route?

(*b*) Have Government received any proposals from the South Indian Railway Company or any of its officers or had any correspondence with the Ceylon Government or the India Government on the subject of Indo-Ceylon communications?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the papers relating to such proposals and correspondence, or make a statement on the subject indicating the position of affairs, if not their view thereon?

(*d*) In view of the representations from Tuticorin and Point Calimere and the vast interests and complex problems involved, will Government be pleased to appoint a committee to investigate and report on the whole question of Indo-Ceylon communications?

The Hon'ble Mr. Wilson :—

Answer.—(*a*) & (*b*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*c*) Government are not in a position at present to lay any papers on the table or to make any statement on the subject.

(*d*) Government do not consider it necessary to appoint such a committee at the present time.

The Hon'ble Mr. GURUSWAMI AIYAR :—

845 [XXX] *Question.*—With reference to the answer of Government to my question * at the last meeting of this Council on the treatment of Indian coolies in Natal and their overcrowding on their return voyages, are Government in receipt of the further information then awaited and will they now be pleased to state what action is intended to be taken in the matter?

* 768 supra, p. 268.

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—The information referred to was only received yesterday. The matter has not yet been considered by Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. GURUSWAMI AIYAR :—

846 [XXXI] *Question.*—(*a*) Have Government received a memorial from the inhabitants of Nánganéri taluk, Tinnevelly district, requesting that the additional District Munsif's Court of Tinnevelly may be given territorial jurisdiction and located at Nánganéri?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to consider the desirability of giving effect to the proposal before the question of housing the two District Munsifs' Courts of Tinnevelly is settled finally?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—A memorial purporting to come from the inhabitants of the Nánganéri taluk was received on the 17th instant. A similar memorial was received by the High Court on the 16th instant, which will receive the consideration of the Honourable the Judges in due course.

The Hon'ble Mr. GURUSWAMI AIYAR :—

847 [XXXII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that in the Kulittalai taluk of the Trichinopoly district, cattle are impounded too often and too numerously at the instance of Forest officers and Public Works subordinates, and that the owners of cattle are mulcted unduly heavily in pound fines and are subjected to criminal prosecutions on charges of attempts at rescue?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to call for a report from the Revenue department of the district on the subject?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—The Government have received no complaint on the subject and do not at present propose to call for any report.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

848 [XXXIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been invited to the article in the *Hindu* of the 21st December 1906 and the letters published therein complaining of the treatment accorded by the District and Sessions Judge of Kurnool to the members of the bar?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to enquire as to whether the allegations made therein are true and, if true, take steps to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in the future?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) The matter is under inquiry.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

849 [XXXIV] *Question.*—(*a*) Have the Government received any memorial from the karnam of Butchirajupalem, Vizagapatam taluk, complaining that his service inam land which has been lying waste owing to the saline character of the soil and

from which not more than Rs. 10 net has been derived, has been assessed at Rs. 111-5-10 on the ground that the lowest rate of assessment is As. 8 per acre; and are the facts stated therein correct?

(b) Is it a fact that the lowest rate adopted by the Inam Commissioner is As. 8?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—(a) The memorial referred to has been received and is now under the consideration of Government.

(b) The lowest dry rate in the Vizagapatam district is As. 8 per acre.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

850 [XXXV] *Question*.—(a) Have the residents Mr. A. Manika Chetti and 125 others of McGasken Street, Appiah Muthu Street, Chembadapilliar Street, Mint Street (entrance from Memorial Hall), Wall-tax Road up to Post Office and John Pereira's Road memorialised the Government protesting against the removal of 200 houses occupied by about 3,000 persons for the construction of the Madras Railway Office buildings?

(b) Is it a fact that the principal occupations of the petitioners are peculiarly connected with the locality and that the petitioners would be deprived of the means of earning their livelihood, if their houses should be acquired?

(c) If so, will the Government be pleased to favourably consider their prayer?

The Hon'ble Mr. Wilson :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to Question No. XXV.*

* 840 *supra*, p. 296.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

851 [XXXVI] *Question*.—(a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the fact that relatively to area and population the magisterial fines imposed in Madras have always been much higher than those in any other province in India, the estimates for 1905-1906 being—

	RS.
Madras	5,99,000
Bengal	5,60,000
Agra and Oudh	2,65,000
Punjab	2,07,000
Bombay	2,66,500
Central Provinces	83,500?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to enquire into the matter and see that the law is worked so that the fines may press less heavily on the people?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—The Government are not prepared to enter upon a comparative examination of the criminal statistics referred to; nor have they the material to draw deductions therefrom. The Governor in Council has no reason to believe that fines are improperly imposed generally in this presidency. The orders of the subordinate magisterial courts are subject to the revision of District Magistrates and the High Court, who issue any instructions that may be needed to check idiosyncracies of individual courts.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

852 [XXXVII] *Question*.—Having regard to the fact that breaches on the north-eastern line of the Madras Railway between Ongole and Nellore occurring every year, point to the insufficient provision originally made for drainage, will the Government be pleased to take the necessary steps for an early survey of the whole of that portion of the line being made and the construction of new bridges being speedily undertaken before the next rains?

The Hon'ble Mr. Wilson :—

Answer.—The inadequacy of the allowance for waterway on the north-east line of the Madras Railway between Nellore and Ongole has already been investigated by the Railway authorities. During the last two years over $2\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of rupees have been expended on additional bridges, and it is expected that the section will be reasonably safe from damage by floods before next rains.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

853 [XXXVIII] *Question*.—(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been invited to the great inconvenience and hardship felt by the Indian travelling public owing to the entire absence of accommodation for bathing and taking their meals at Bitragunta and Bápatla (dining stations) where alone the mail trains stop for half an hour?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to take steps that the grievance may be attended to and in the near future?

The Hon'ble Mr. Wilson :—

Answer.—(*a*) Government have received no complaints regarding the absence of bathing and dining accommodation for the Indian travelling public at Bitragunta and Bápatla.

(*b*) The matter will be enquired into.

24. MEETING OF THE 9TH APRIL 1907.

The Hon'ble Mr. SIVASWAMI AIYAR :—

854 [I] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the leading article in the *Hindu* of the 12th March 1907 as well as to a leaderette that was published in the *Indian Patriot* of the 8th March 1907 under the heading of "Personal allowance to Eurasian clerks"?

(*b*) Is it a fact that in the office of the Inspector-General of Police one Mr. Gibbs, a storekeeper drawing a salary of Rs. 80, has, in order to supplement his salary, applied for a "conveyance allowance" of only Rs. 15 and that the head of the department was pleased to recommend for a more favourable concession, viz., for a "house-rent allowance"?

(*c*) Is it true that the Government were finally pleased to sanction a still more favourable concession, viz., "a personal allowance of Rs. 25" which would count towards pension also?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government have now perused the articles referred to.

(*b*) The salary of Mr. Gibbs has been Rs. 200 for the last six years. In view of the fact that he would be better off in the mufassal than in Madras where his services are specially required, the Inspector-General of Police recommended him for a house-rent allowance of Rs. 25 per mensem.

(*c*) The Government sanctioned a personal allowance to Mr. Gibbs because the grant of house-rent would be a precedent for a similar grant to his successors. In the mufassal Mr. Gibbs would be receiving at least Rs. 200 + 15 conveyance allowance with the addition of quarters at a very moderate rent.

The Hon'ble Mr. SIVASWAMI AIYAR :—

855 [II] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it true that the lascars in the office of the Inspector-General of Police applied for an allowance of one rupee each per mensem on account of the extraordinary dearness of food-grains prevailing in this city?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to grant a temporary relief to those lascars by sanctioning the grain allowance which they have prayed for?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Inspector-General received a petition from the lascars of his office on the 21st November 1906, requesting an increase to their pay on the grounds "that it has been fixed some years before," that "work had increased" and that "living had become more costly". The Inspector-General, however, saw no reason to entertain the request.

(*b*) The lascars did not pray for temporary relief or for a grain allowance.

The Hon'ble Mr. SIVASWAMI AIYAR :—

856 [III] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the Government have sanctioned the grant of "a personal allowance of Rs. 20" to any European or Eurasian clerk in the Chief Secretariat office until he is promoted to the Rs. 100 grade?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether, in the first instance, any application for such a concession was made to them by the European or Eurasian clerks of the staff, and, if so, the grounds on which they sought this special concession?

(*c*) Do the Government intend to grant a similar concession to the European and Eurasian clerks in other public offices in this city?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government a short time ago sanctioned the grant of a personal allowance of Rs. 20, as stated, to European and Eurasian clerks entering the Chief Secretariat in the lowest grade. The allowance is not admissible to those whose emoluments have reached Rs. 100 and upwards. These clerks now enter at the bottom of the list and rank for purposes of promotion with reference to the date of such entry. The Government prefer this course to that which it is understood is adopted in Bengal of having a special cadre for Europeans and Eurasians. Only one man at present has drawn the allowance.

(*b*) The answer is in the negative; but the Government consider it desirable to employ a certain number of Europeans and Eurasians in the Secretariat and have adopted this course in order to attract men of this class with the required character and qualifications.

(*c*) The Government have no such intention.

The Hon'ble Mr. Sivaswami Aiyar :—

857 [IV] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a leaderette that was published in the *Hindu* of the 15th March 1907 under the heading "Public offices and night work"?

(*b*) In view to the safety of valuable records in public offices and their protection from fire and in view of avoiding the attendance of clerks and other subordinate officials beyond the usual closing hour of 5 P.M., will the Government be pleased to issue orders to the heads of public offices as regards the hours of working, the prohibition of the use of lights and such other precautionary measures as may seem necessary to be adopted?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government have now perused the article.

(*b*) The usual office hours are from 11 A.M. to 5 P.M., but these are liable to alteration when the state of the work requires it. The Government do not think it desirable to make any change in this respect. As to the protection of public buildings from fire, the Government issued rules in 1896. The Government appointed a Committee to enquire into the causes of the recent fire at Chepauk and to make such recommendations as they deemed proper to obviate the danger of the recurrence of similar accidents.

The Hon'ble Mr. Sivaswami Aiyar :—

858 [V] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the leading article on "Government and Subordinate officials" that appeared in the *Hindu* on the 22nd March 1907?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to consider favourably the question of increasing the remuneration of the low-paid officials and menials in Government service?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table all the important papers relating to the full data underlying the revision of the "normal", "warning" and "scarcity" rates which was said to be under their consideration?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government have now perused the article in question.

(*b*) The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to Question No. XXV * at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 13th November 1906.

* 781 *supra*. p. 276.

(c) The data on which the existing normal, warning and scarcity rates were based will be found in the following orders of Government :—

G.O.,	No.	1077,	Revenue,	dated	18th December 1893.
,,	,,	306	,,	,,	2nd July 1896.
,,	,,	763	,,	,,	31st December 1896.
,,	,,	696	,,	,,	5th August 1902.

The first three orders have already been laid on the Editors' Table and the Government will be pleased to supply the Honourable Member with copies of all four orders if he desires them.

The Government cannot at present publish the data on which the revision of the normal, warning and scarcity rates is now being considered.

The Hon'ble Mr. Sivaswami Aiyar :—

859 [VI] *Question.*—(a) With reference to the answer given to my interpellation (No. XII) * at the last Council meeting, is it true as was stated in the *Hindu* and the *Madras Standard* on the 23rd and 24th January 1907, respectively, that the endorsement which was worded in general terms was given the effect of an office order by being circulated among the responsible officers for information and guidance and that no petitions have been addressed to the Secretary ever since?

* 827 *supra* p. 292.

(b) If this be true, will the Government be pleased to cause the order of the Secretary to be revoked?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—The Government have now been informed that, though no circular order was issued by the Board, the Secretary's endorsement was circulated to heads of sections in the Separate Revenue department. No complaint has been made to Government on the matter and they see no reason to take any further action.

The Hon'ble Raja Virabhadra Razu Bahadur of Kurupam :—

860 [VII] *Question.*—(a) Is it a fact that some of the hillmen in the Ganjám and Vizagapatam Agencies have no medical help of any kind?

(b) Will Government be pleased to attach additional hospital assistants to dispensaries in and adjoining the Agency in the above districts and direct them to pay frequent visits to hill villages and offer medical aid to such ignorant hillmen as won't resort to it of their own accord?

(c) Will Government be further pleased to sanction a scale of travelling allowance and batta to the hospital assistants when out on such duty as an inducement to them to discharge their duties regularly and well?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer—(a) Some of the hillmen in the Agency tracts reside at a considerable distance from hospitals and dispensaries. The Government, however, cannot say that they have no medical help of any kind.

(b) The Divisional-officers have hospital assistants attached to their offices whose services are available in ordinary course. It is impracticable to arrange that hospital assistants should tour in the villages to offer medical aid to those who decline to resort to the established dispensaries.

(c) The Government do not propose to sanction a scale of travelling allowances beyond what is admissible under the present rules.

The Hon'ble Raja VIRABHADRA RAZU Bahadur of Kurupam :—

861 [VIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that great scarcity of water prevails in many of the villages in the Ganjám and Vizagapatam Agencies during a large part of the year; that when water is available, it is so impure as not to be fit to be used for drinking purposes; and that in consequence the people are often obliged to go miles away from their homes in quest of drinking-water?

(*b*) Since the Local Boards Act has been introduced into these Agencies, will Government be pleased to direct the Local Boards of the two districts to make a liberal provision in their budgets for sinking a sufficient number of wells wherever they are found useful, and thus place the people within easy reach of pure drinking-water?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to make due provision for that purpose from Provincial Funds if the Local Boards cannot afford to do so from Local funds?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to Question No. IV (*b*) * asked by him at the meeting of the Legislative Council on the 22nd January 1907 and is reminded that the Local Boards Act is in force only in a portion of the Vizagapatam Agency and not in the Ganjám Agency. The Government have no information that the inhabitants of the villages in the Vizagapatam Agency suffer any special hardship in the matter of drinking-water. As to the Ganjám Agency the Government on the representation of the Agent have allotted funds for the improvement of the water-supply in certain parts of that tract.

* 819 *supra*, p. 289.

The Hon'ble Raja VIRABHADRA RAZU Bahadur of Kurupam :—

862 [IX] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to consider the desirability of including a course of agricultural studies among the subjects prescribed for the Revenue Lower and Higher tests and of making it compulsory for Tahsildars to undergo regular agricultural training before they are appointed?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—The Government do not doubt that a knowledge of agriculture would be useful to Land Revenue officers. But they do not consider that the inclusion of an examination in agriculture among the subjects prescribed for the Special Tests is the proper way to promote that knowledge; nor do they think it possible at present to require Tahsildars to undergo regular agricultural training before they are appointed.

The Hon'ble Raja VIRABHADRA RAZU Bahadur of Kurupam :—

863 [X] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that under the new Educational Rules the Uriyas have been omitted from the list of "backward classes" entitled to pay half-rates of school-fees, while the Muhammadans have been retained under that class as usual?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the Uriyas are not less backward than the Muhammadans and deserve to be continued under that category as hitherto?

(*c*) If so, will Government be pleased to continue to treat them as a "backward class" as before?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer—The Government have now restored the concession enjoyed by Uriyas of paying fees at half the standard rates in institutions under public management.

The Hon'ble Raja VIRABHADRA RAZU Bahadur of Kurupam :—

864 [XI] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that Deputy Tahsildars who exercise civil as well as criminal jurisdiction in Agency tracts are mostly ignorant of civil law, having only passed the required Revenue and Criminal tests like ordinary Deputy Tahsildars ?

(*b*) If so, will Government be pleased to order such officers to pass the Civil test also before they are allowed to exercise the powers of District Munsifs ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—The circumstances of the non-regulation Agency tracts are special and the Government see no sufficient reason to alter existing practice. Ordinarily the knowledge of civil law required for the disposal of disputes among the hillmen of these tracts is of an elementary character. With the exception of a very few sections, the Code of Civil Procedure is not in force; and the Judge is required to dispose of suits in accordance with "equity and good conscience".

The Hon'ble Raja VIRABHADRA RAZU Bahadur of Kurupam :—

865 [XII] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to consider the desirability of appointing non-official vice-presidents for the Ganjám and Vizagapatam District Boards ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—The Government will be pleased to appoint non-officials as vice-presidents of the District Boards of Ganjám and Vizagapatam if competent men should be found willing and able to devote the necessary time to the duties of the post.

The Hon'ble Raja VIRABHADRA RAZU Bahadur of Kurupam :—

866 [XIII] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to state whether Secretaries to the various Municipal Councils appointed under the District Municipalities Act (IV of 1884 amended by Act III of 1897) have generally proved useful as a body ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—With some exceptions Municipal Secretaries have proved to be useful public servants.

The Hon'ble Raja VIRABHADRA RAZU Bahadur of Kurupam :—

867 [XIV] *Question.*—(*a*) Will Government be pleased to consider the desirability of opening a veterinary hospital at Vizagapatam, for which there has been a long-felt want in the district ?

(*b*) If Government consider for any reason that such a hospital cannot, at present, be opened, will they be pleased to appoint a veterinary hospital assistant for the district where cattle diseases prevail largely, often attended with disastrous results ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—The Government have sanctioned the proposal of the Vizagapatam District Board to open a veterinary dispensary at Vizagapatam. Provision has been made in the budget estimate of the District Board for 1907–1908 for the necessary establishment.

The Hon'ble Raja VIRABHADRA RAZU Bahadur of Kurupam :—

868 [XV] *Question.*—(*a*) Referring to the answer given to Question No. I (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) * put by the Hon'ble Mr. K. R. Guruswami Aiyar at the meeting of the Legislative Council, dated 6th April 1906, will Government be pleased to state whether the report called for from the Registrar of Co-operative Credit Societies has been received ?

* 696 *supra*, p. 245.

(b) If so, do Government propose taking any steps to put an end to the provident societies referred to in the question, and to prevent the coming into existence of new ones?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—(a) The question is still under investigation by the Inspector-General of Registration, not the Registrar of Co-operative Credit Societies, and no report has yet been received on the subject.

(b) The Government are doing their best to put down fraudulent provident societies. K. K. Bose, Manager of the Calcutta Provident Institution, has been prosecuted and convicted of cheating and criminal breach of trust in three cases at Mercara and sentenced to $4\frac{1}{2}$ years' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 2,500. Another case against him and the proprietor and originator of the institution is pending before the criminal courts at Rajahmundry.

When the report of the Inspector-General of Registration has been received the question whether it is desirable to propose legislation on the subject will be considered.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

869 [XVI] *Question*.—With a view to securing greater discipline and efficiency in working in the process departments of the Munsifs' courts in the presidency, will the Government be pleased, after consultation with the High Court if necessary, to vest the District Munsifs with the powers of appointing, punishing and dismissing the process-servers subject, however, to a right of appeal against the orders of the Munsifs to District Judges?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—The attention of the Honourable Member will be drawn to section 23 of the Madras Civil Courts Act under which District Munsifs appoint, suspend or remove from office the ministerial officers of their courts subject to the control of the District Judge. Process-servers have been held by the High Court to be ministerial officers within the meaning of section 23 of the Act. The Government see no sufficient reason to propose an alteration of the existing law.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

870 [XVII] *Question*.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have now received the original petitions, referred to in question No. XXIV * asked at the meeting of this Council on the 22nd January 1907, of the clerks of the Madras Stationery office from the Superintendent of Stationery, Madras, and what consideration the Government have bestowed on these petitions?

* 839 *supra*, p. 296.

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—The original petitions have been received and the Government have intimated that they are prepared to raise the minimum pay of the clerical establishment in the office of the Superintendent of Stationery to Rs. 20 per mensem and to reorganize the scale of the establishment. The Government do not consider that the grant of a local allowance is called for in the case of typists employed in the Stationery office.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

871 [XVIII] *Question*.—(a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a letter under the heading of "Feeding channel for Vilattikulam tank and Public Works Department" published in the *Standard* newspaper of the 16th March 1907?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to sanction the construction of a feeding channel for the tank from the Vaipar river at the estimated cost of Rs. 19,600 before the larger scheme of Mr. L. D. Venkatarama Aiyar at an estimated cost of Rupees 2,80,000 is taken into consideration?

The Hon'ble Mr. Wilson :—

Answer.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The question as to whether the smaller estimate should be sanctioned before completing the investigation of the larger scheme is receiving the attention of the Superintending Engineer, who promises a further report on this subject. Until its receipt Government are not in a position to give an opinion.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

872 [XIX] *Question*.—(i) Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is a printing department in the Cannanore Central Jail?

(*b*) how long the department has been in existence?

(*c*) whether convicts are employed in the working of the department?

(*d*) whether the department, in addition to Government work, executes orders from private individuals?

(*e*) whether private orders are received by the department from Malabar and from other parts of the presidency including Native States and the French possession of Mahé?

(*f*) what are the rates collected by the department as printing and binding charges?

(ii) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of private orders for printing and binding executed by the department, and the amount realised by the execution of such orders during the last three years?

(iii) Will the Government be pleased to issue the necessary orders for putting a stop to this competition of convict labour with free labour and restricting the operations of the department to the execution of Government work exclusively?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer (i) (*a*) & (*c*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(i) (*b*), (*d*), (*e*), (*f*) & (ii) The Government have no information on these matters but will call for it.

(iii) It is the policy of Government that jail industries should not compete in the open market with private enterprise. In accordance with this policy the Government disallowed the purchase for Cannanore jail of a new press in January 1906. They have no information as to the amount of work done by the press in the jail for private parties or the open market, but will call for a report.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

873 [XX] *Question*.—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is in contemplation to introduce a system of periodical destruction of such of the records in the registration offices as are supposed to have satisfied the law of limitation for the institution of suits based on them?

(*b*) Having regard to the importance attached by the people and the courts of law in the country to registered documents, will the Government be pleased to see that the contemplated system of destruction is not introduced?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—No system of periodical destruction of registration records is under the consideration of Government at present.

The Hon'ble Mr. GURUSWAMI AIYAR :—

874 [XXI] *Question*.—(*a*) Is it a fact according to information available to Government that of late years the prices of one and all of the prime necessaries of life have risen considerably everywhere in the presidency and especially in Madras?

(*b*) Is it a fact that in Bengal and elsewhere special allowances have been sanctioned for clerks in public offices on account of the rise in prices?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state if they do not consider that the rise in prices causes real hardship in the case of clerical and other subordinates on low pay?

(d) Have Government granted any allowance or increase of pay to any class of their employés as such on account of the rise in prices and if so to whom, and on what grounds?

(e) Will Government be pleased to sanction special allowances in the case of such subordinates in receipt of Rs. 35 or less at Madras and Rs. 25 or less in the mufassal?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—(a) The Honourable Member is referred to the publication of the Government of India entitled "Prices and Wages in India" which shows the average price of the chief food-grains in the various districts of India for quinquennial periods. From the figures there given the Honourable Member will observe that the average price of the main food staples, rice, cholam, cumbu and ragi, was lower in the Madras Presidency during the quinquennium, 1901-1905, than in the previous period of five years, 1896-1900. Prices are at present high, but it is not yet shown that this is other than a temporary rise.

(b) *to* (e) The Government have not granted any allowances on account of dearness of provisions to any class of officer and they do not propose at present to do so. They have no information as to whether any special allowances have been granted in Bengal or elsewhere, but they observe that even if it were shown that such allowances have been given in other parts of India, it would not necessarily follow that they are called for in Madras. In Bengal and in some other provinces famine conditions have prevailed and 44,632 people were on relief in Bengal a few weeks ago. No such conditions prevail or have prevailed in Madras.

The Hon'ble Mr. Guruswami Aiyar :—

875 [XXII] *Question.*—(a) Have Government received a memorial from the residents and landholders of Panaji and four other villages in Uppinangadi taluk and Nellanije and another village in Kasaragode taluk in the district of South Canara praying for the exclusion of certain tracts from the proposed Bantage reserve forest, block No. 157, for the exercise of their accustomed communal rights and privileges?

(b) Will Government be pleased to consider the prayer of the memorialists favourably and direct the necessary exclusion?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—A petition resembling generally the memorial referred to in the question was received in January last, and as the representations it contained were matters to be dealt with by the Forest Settlement Officer, the petitioners were directed to prefer their claims to him. The Government have not yet received the final report on the Forest Settlement Officer's proceedings. When it is received, the representations of the petitioners will be duly considered.

The Hon'ble Mr. Guruswami Aiyar :—

876 [XXIII] *Question.*—(a) Have Government received a memorial from some rate-payers resident in the Madura Municipality complaining of the construction of a central market having been given on contract to one of the councillors and making other serious allegations against that councillor and some others?

(b) Has the Collector accorded his sanction to the entrustment of the work to the councillor-contractor?

(c) Have Government satisfied themselves that there were no irregularities such as have been complained of or otherwise, and that in the interests of the Municipality the course of giving the contract to a councillor was necessary in this case?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state how the question raised has been disposed of?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—A memorial was received from certain persons in Madura complaining of the administration of municipal affairs in that town, but that memorial made no complaint as regards the contract for the construction of the central market. The Municipal Council, Madura, in its resolution No. 755, dated 10th December 1906, resolved that the contract for the construction of a central market at Madura should be given to a municipal councillor and that the permission of the Collector of the district under section 260, District Municipalities Act, be obtained therefor. The Collector declined to grant the permission asked for. The resolution of the Council was not supported by the Chairman.

The Hon'ble Mr. GURUSWAMI AIYAR :—

877 [XXIV] *Question.*—(*a*) Has Government's attention been drawn by the Collector and District Magistrate of Madura or the Political Agent for the Pudukkóttai State to a petition addressed to the former by S. R. M. M. S. T. Chidambaram Chettiyar of Kanadukathan in the Madura district on the subject of the assumption of jurisdiction over the village of Thammanai by a third-class magistrate of that State in C.C. 3 of 1906 ?

(*b*) Have Government come to a decision, and if so what, on the question of jurisdiction over the village, and if not will they be pleased to take steps to stay the trial of Chidambaram Chettiyar and the other accused who are British Indian subjects in the said case before a decision is arrived at ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—The Government have no information on the subject.

The Hon'ble Mr. GURUSWAMI AIYAR :—

878 [XXV] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the Government's attention been drawn to the numerous complaints, criticisms and suggestions contained in the journals noted below on the grievances of the Medical department in this presidency :—

1.	The Indian Medical Record	24th August	1904
2.	Do.	5th October	,,
3.	The Madras Mail	25th ,,	,,
4.	Do.	28th ,,	,,
5.	Do.	29th ,,	,,
6.	Do.	28th January	1905
7.	Do.	7th February	,,
8.	The Antiseptic	December	1904
9.	Do.	January	1905
10.	Do.	October	,,
11.	Do.	January	1906
12.	The Madras Standard	16th October	,,
13.	Do.	16th ,,	,,
14.	Do.	28th December	,,
15.	The Hindu	19th August	1905
16.	Do.	11th October	,,
17.	Do.	24th January	1906
18.	Do.	5th February	,,
19.	Do.	14th March	,,
20.	Do.	14th April	,,
21.	Do.	24th ,,	,,
22.	Do.	3rd October	,,
23.	Do.	22nd December	,,
24.	Do.	28th ,,	,,
25.	Do.	1st January	1907
26.	Do.	27th February	,,
27.	The Madras Weekly Mail	23rd ,,	1905

and several more ?

(*b*) Have Government received copy or copies of an anonymous pamphlet headed "Madras Civil Medical department" which appears to have been widely distributed to numerous officers of Government and public men in the presidency?

(*c*) Are Government in a position to state if the bitter complaints in the Press and the serious allegations in the pamphlet are well or ill founded and if not will they be pleased to order a thorough investigation by the Surgeon-General or by an officer from outside his department and place the result of such investigation on the table?

(*d*) Is it a fact that Mr. Ghulam Muhammad Sahib, Khan Bahadur, the manager of the Surgeon-General's office, is already over 56 years of age with 34 years service in his favour?

(*e*) Has he had any extension of service hitherto and will Government be pleased to state if it is intended to allow him any further extension and if so on what special grounds? If he is not to be allowed an extension, will Government be pleased to direct that fresh blood be introduced into the staff of the Surgeon-General's office to be in ministerial control thereof?

(*f*) Will Government be pleased to consider the desirability of appointing officers of considerable district experience to the post of Personal Assistant to the Surgeon-General?

(*g*) Will Government be pleased to consider the advantage of making transfers in the Medical department at longer intervals than in other departments?

(*h*) Will Government be pleased to prescribe the number of years within which the various grades of medical officers and the territorial spheres beyond which medical subordinates may not be transferred except on personal or extraordinary public grounds?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—(*a*) & (*b*) The answer is in the negative.

(*c*) The Government cannot take the action suggested upon anonymous communications.

(*d*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*e*) The manager has had already an extension of service, but it is not intended that any further extension should be allowed.

(*f*) The Government cannot make any general pronouncement on the subject.

(*g*) & (*h*) There are no proposals before the Government in connection with the matters referred to in these parts of the question.

The Hon'ble Mr. GURUSWAMI AIYAR :—

879 [XXVI] *Question*.—(*a*) Have Government received any communication complaining that Mr. Noor Muhammad, the civil apothecary in Tondi in the Madura district, has overburdened himself with too many duties, such as to prejudice the proper performance of his main function?

(*b*) Is it a fact that besides his duties as medical officer in the station he has undertaken the work of—

(1) assistant superintendent of immigration in behalf of the Ceylon Government,

(2) health officer to inspect the vessels of the British India Steam Navigation Company touching that port and grant health certificates to persons embarking therefrom on board their boats,

(3) weekly visitor of the jail at Tiruvádánai,

(4) agent of the Ceylon Labour Commission, and

(5) private practice?

(*c*) Have the Government sanctioned the combination of so many functions in the same officer and if not, will they enquire into the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—(*a*) A copy of an anonymous petition appears to have been received in the Secretariat in November last on the subject mentioned, but as it was anonymous no notice was taken of it.

(*b*) Except as regards the agency of the Ceylon Labour Commission, regarding which the Government have no information, the answer is in the affirmative.

(*c*) The Government do not propose to issue any directions in the matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. GURUSWAMI AIYAR :—

880 [XXVII] *Question*.—With reference to the notification recently published under orders from Government *in re* the enforcement of the provisions of the Stage Carriages Act to conveyances plying between Ammáyanáyakkanúr and Krishnama Naik Tope, it is complained in the Press—

(*a*) that the number of carriages licensed is unduly small, so that the hire has become unduly high;

(*b*) that the carriages in Batlagundu and other villages on the way, which ply either westwards to the Tope or eastwards to the Railway station and generally for distances within 12 miles, have been needlessly brought under the hardship of the restrictions imposed by the Act;

(*c*) that in the case of conveyances drawn by bulls which cover the whole distance without undue strain the licensing system has been needlessly introduced; and

(*d*) that the limit of 8 miles' distance for providing relays is unduly low and might be 12 miles (the distance between Batlagundu and Ammayanáyakkanúr).

Will Government be pleased to call for a report from the District Magistrate of Madura on the working of the Act in the locality aforesaid and make suitable modifications so as to obviate the hardships pointed out?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—The District Magistrate has already been instructed to report on the working of the Act after it has been in force for a year. Any complaints as to the manner in which it is being worked should be laid before the District Magistrate.

The Hon'ble Mr. GURUSWAMI AIYAR :—

881 [XXVIII] *Question*.—With reference to my Question No. VII * series put at the meeting of the 13th November last on the treatment of Indian coolies in Natal and another question on the same subject No. XXX † put at the last meeting, will the Government now be pleased to answer the several parts thereof?

* 763 su p. 268
† 845 su p. 298

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—The Government have received the information asked for by the Protector of Emigrants from the Protector of Indian Immigrants, Natal, regarding the alleged overcrowding on the S.S. *Umfuli* on her return voyage to India in September last. The Port Captain at Durban admitted that a larger number of return emigrants was shipped on the vessel than she was entitled to carry by the law which he considered applicable. Under instructions since issued by Government, the Protector of Emigrants now forwards with every emigrant vessel sailing for Natal a copy of the final survey certificate issued at Madras. This certificate shows the number of emigrants the vessel is entitled to carry according to Indian law and serves as a guide to the Port Captain, Durban. The correspondence has been forwarded to the Government of India for consideration; and it is not deemed necessary to appoint a commission of inquiry, or to propose the appointment of an Indian official in Natal as Protector of Emigrants in addition to the officer appointed to discharge those duties by the Government of Natal.

The Hon'ble Mr. Guruswami Aiyar :—

882 [XXIX] *Question.*—Is it a fact that Mr. A. M. Slight, I.C.S., Sessions Judge of Trichinopoly, commenced the trial of a case against a postal servant for forgery and breach of trust late in the evening on the 11th March 1907, absented himself from court on the 12th, 13th, 14th and 15th idem, attended court and resumed the trial at 3 P.M. on the 16th idem and again absented himself on the 18th, 19th, 20th and 21st idem, while the assessors, witnesses and others concerned were detained from day to day from 11 o'clock in the morning until 5 o'clock in the evening without any intimation whether the judge would go to court or not; that though the 15th was a gazetted holiday being the Telugu New Year's day, yet they were asked to attend and detained, the judge however failing to come to court; that six or seven other persons were also detained all the time for the purpose of selection as jurors in another case against an old offender which stood posted to the 12th idem and had to stand over from day to day; and that there were public servants and business men also among the persons so detained?

Will Government be pleased to state what led to the judge's continuous absence and his failure to intimate when the persons wanted for the case should attend, and what notice, if any, Government have taken or intend taking of Mr. Slight's method of attending to sessions trials?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—Mr. Slight has been and is still ill; he was to appear before the Medical Board on Saturday the 30th March but was too unwell to do so. Another officer was posted as District and Sessions Judge in relief of Mr. Slight as soon as the Government learned the circumstances of his continued inability to attend to his duties.

The Hon'ble Mr. Guruswami Aiyar :—

883 [XXX] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to call for the opinion of the High Court and consider the desirability of amending the Civil Courts Act so as to make the powers of Munsifs and Sub-Judges over their subordinates more real and effective?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—The Government have had no cause to suppose that the power conferred on District Judges by section 23 of the Madras Civil Courts Act has led to practical inconvenience. The Government are not prepared to take the steps suggested by the Honourable Member.

25. MEETING OF THE 2ND DECEMBER 1907.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

884 [I] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state in how many villages, in addition to those referred to in Volume II of the Local Rules and Orders made under enactments applying to the presidency, the provisions of section 9, clauses 2 to 9, of Act I of 1889 have been brought into force?

(*b*). Is it a fact that only 648 suits out of 93,928 adjudged by village courts have been disposed of by bench courts, and will the Government be pleased to extend the system of trial by bench courts?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to modify the rule as per G.O., No. 431, Judicial, dated 28th February 1893, so as to enable Collectors to appoint competent persons as village munsifs in places where the heads of villages may be found incompetent to discharge the duties of the office of munsif?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to provide for the periodical inspection of the records of village courts by District Munsifs?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—(*a*) The provisions referred to have been extended to 566 additional villages.

(*b*) One thousand four hundred and eighty-nine suits out of 95,765 heard in 1906 were disposed of by bench courts. The system is gradually being extended, and the Government have consistently encouraged it.

(*c*) The rule in the Government Order quoted by the Honourable Member has been modified by orders issued in 1905 to this extent that, where villages have been grouped for purposes of revenue administration under a single village headman, the Collector may appoint as village munsif of the village court of each village a resident villager whom he deems qualified giving, however, a preference to members of the hereditary families. The Government have not heretofore received representations which would lead them to alter the rules further.

(*d*) Under section 75 of the Village Courts Act the village courts are subject to inspection by the District Munsif or District Judge; but the practice where it did exist appears to have been generally abandoned by District Munsifs owing to pressure of work, and the Government are not prepared to move the High Court in the matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

885 [II] *Question.*—(1) Has the attention of the Government been invited to the great disproportion in the number of District Munsifs relatively to area, population and the number of suits contested and uncontested between Bengal and Madras, 295 District Munsifs being employed in Bengal and 146 in East Bengal and Assam and only 121 in Madras, the ordinary jurisdiction of a District Munsif in Bengal and Madras extending to Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 2,500 respectively?

(2) Is it a fact that there has been a steady increase in the number of suits instituted in District Munsifs' Courts in Madras and in the net revenue derived therefrom during recent years, the increase in 1905-1906 having amounted to 9,493 suits?

(3) Will the Government be pleased to state the average rate of mortality and duration of life among District Munsifs and Subordinate Judges and obtain information if necessary?

(4) Will the Government be pleased to provide for the relief of pressure by sanctioning the appointment of additional Munsifs or otherwise?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—(1) The Government have not made any comparison of the relative amount of work done by District Munsifs in Bengal and this presidency.

(2) The statistics will be found in the annual Civil Justice reports.

(3) The Government have no information as to the rate of mortality among District Munsifs and Subordinate Judges; nor do they consider that an inquiry of the kind suggested would be of any practical value.

(4) Any proposals made by the High Court for the establishment of additional Munsifs' Courts will have the most careful consideration of Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

886 [III] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the revenue from income-tax in this presidency has increased from 13,67,380 in 1886 to 29,34,971 in 1902-1903 (about 116 per cent.) and 24·05 in 1903-1904 to 28 in 1907 (about 16 per cent.) and under part IV from 8,68,430 to 22,17,819 in 1902-1903 (about 175 per cent.) and about 23 lakhs in 1906-1907?

(*b*) Is it a fact that relatively to other provinces the increase has been very large, taxation under this head being—

	1886–1887.		1902–1903.		1905–1906.	
	Part IV.	Total.	Part IV.	Total.	Part IV.	Total.
	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
Bengal	25,02,500	38,10,990	36,24,873	56,37,032	..	51,00,000
					1906–1907.	
					Part IV.	Total.
United Provinces	17,21,850	21,77,940	18,94,301	25,49,878	17,12,000	20,50,000
Bombay	19,56,440	30,04,390	23,62,394	39,01,264	23,12,000	39,50,000 ?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state why the increase, especially under part IV, has been so high in this presidency?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—(*a*) & (*b*) The figures quoted by the Honourable Member appear to be in most cases approximately correct, but the Government are not aware of the causes which may in other presidencies have affected the growth of the revenue and cannot therefore explain why the increase there has been less than in Madras.

(*c*) The reason of the increase in Madras must be largely a matter of conjecture but the increase is believed to be mainly due to improved administration of the tax.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

887 [IV] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state how many inamdars there are in the presidency and the average number of acres held by each?

(*b*) Are the figures given in Mr. Srinivasa Raghava Aiyangar's Manual that there are 438,659 inamdars with an average acreage of 19 each and the statement that the holders of whole inam villages are in an impoverished condition, their property having got sub-divided into minute portions, substantially correct?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to enquire as to how many co-sharers enjoy jointly with the registered holders and how many tenants cultivate land under inamdars?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—(*a*) The information asked for is not available.

(*b*) The figures given by the late Diwan Bahadur Srinivasa Raghava Aiyangar were only approximately correct and the return from which they were taken has been abolished by the Government of India on the ground that the figures it contained were incomplete and misleading and that the compilation of correct statistics was impracticable. The Government have no information as to the material condition of the holders of whole inam

villages, but the Honourable Member will observe that the late Diwan Bahadur Srinivasa Raghava Aiyangar states that the revenue which these holders pay to the State amounts to only 16 per cent. of the rental, thus leaving 84 per cent. to the inamdars.

(c) The Government cannot undertake the enquiry suggested, as the value of the information obtained would not be commensurate with the work and outlay involved.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

888 [V] *Question.*—(a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the number of Revenue officers is proposed to be increased to cope with the work which would be thrown on the Revenue Courts when the Estates Land Bill is passed into law and by how many covenanted and uncovenanted officers?

(b) Have the Government prepared an estimate of the approximate cost, if any, which would be incurred by such increase and will it be pleased to lay the scheme, if any, before the public before final orders are passed?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—Whether any increase in the revenue staff will be needed is uncertain. The Government therefore have not yet considered the matter and do not propose to do so until the provisions of the Bill have been finally determined by the legislature.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

889 [VI] *Question.*—With reference to the lump provision made in the budget for 1907–1908 for the constitution of additional districts, will the Government be pleased to lay the scheme now before the public and state if final orders have been passed thereupon?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—The scheme for the redistribution of districts, divisions and taluks in the Madras Presidency was published more than six months ago in the *Fort St. George Gazette* of the 21st May 1907 and a copy sent to the Press. The subject is under the consideration of the Government of India.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

890 [VII] *Question.*—(a) Is it a fact that the Supreme Government has directed an industrial survey of this presidency?

(b) If such survey has been directed, will the Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken in respect thereof?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—The answer is in the negative. Mr. Chatterton has been appointed to be Director of Industrial and Technical Enquiries, but his work is being directed rather to the practical advancement of selected industries than to a survey of their present condition. If the Honourable Member desires further information as to the lines on which work is being carried on by the Director, the Government will be happy to give him more particulars than can be included in the answer to this question.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

891 [VIII] *Question.*—(a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether there is any prospect of either or both of the great irrigation projects in Madras, the Tungabhadra and Kistna, being taken on hand in the near future?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to request the Government of India to sanction the construction of the same at an early date?

The Hon'ble Mr. Wilson :—

Answer.—There is no prospect of the Kistna project being sanctioned in its original form, but there is hope that after detailed investigation a modified project fulfilling the conditions of a productive work will be found feasible.

The revised estimates of the Tungabhadra project are still under the consideration of the local Government, and it is premature to address the Government of India concerning the matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

892 [IX] *Question.*—Is it a fact that the charges on account of superannuation allowances have increased from 13·39 lakhs in 1890–1891 to 22·34 lakhs in 1907–1908? Will the Government be pleased to state whether any estimate has been made as to the maximum limit which under present conditions the allowances are expected to reach and when the maximum is expected to be reached; and if no such estimate has been prepared, will the Government be pleased to direct its preparation?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The growth of the amount of superannuation allowances is the natural result of the growth of the number of Government servants earning pension and the improvement of their pay. The Accountant-General reports that no estimate of the kind referred to by the Honourable Member has ever been made and that it would be impossible to make one.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

893 [X] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state if the Berhampur water-supply scheme has been finally approved and sanctioned and when the work would be taken on hand?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—Administrative approval has been accorded to the complete scheme of water-supply to the town of Berhampur submitted by the Sanitary Engineer. The scheme is estimated to cost Rs. 3,03,920. The annual maintenance charges are estimated at Rs. 3,000. The plans and estimates are now under scrutiny in the Public Works Department. The Government have promised a free grant not exceeding Rs. 1,52,000 towards the cost of the scheme inclusive of the Rs. 20,000 already placed at the disposal of the Council for the purpose, and have further promised to lend the balance required from the Provincial Loans and Advance Account with interest at 4 per cent. per annum. In order to finance the scheme, the Council will have to levy a water and drainage tax at 8 per cent. per annum on the annual value of lands and buildings. The resolution of the Council on this subject is awaited.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

894 [XI] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that about 1,696 and 4,745 villages with a population ranging between 1,000 and 2,000 and 500 and 1,000 respectively have no elementary schools whatsoever? Will the Government be pleased to state if any scheme has been prepared to provide the said villages with schools in the near future, and if no such scheme be ready, direct the preparation of one?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state how many primary or elementary schools have been newly opened in 1906–1907 and are intended to be opened in 1907–1908 and the estimated direct cost thereof?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—(*a*) The figures quoted by the Honourable Member are apparently based on the statistics given in the Report on Public Instruction for 1905–1906 but are not quite correct. According to the latest statistics the numbers are 1,507 and 4,215 respectively. The actual increase in the number of villages with a population ranging between 2,000 and 500 provided with schools during 1906–1907 was 714.

A survey has been made and lists of villages in which there is any probability of a school being successful have been drawn up. The Government and the Local Boards have been and are steadily establishing schools in villages in which there are none as funds become available.

(*b*) The Government have no information as to the actual number of elementary schools of all kinds which were newly opened in 1906–1907, but the number of public elementary schools increased during the year by 894.

The Government have no definite information as to the number of elementary schools which are likely to be opened during 1907–1908 or as to the cost thereof, but it has been estimated that 228 new Board schools will be opened.

The Hon'ble Mr. Narasimheswara Sarma :—

895 [XII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the average consumption of opium in the old Gódávari district is ·648 tola per head, whereas the average consumption in the rest of the presidency is ·080 tola per head?

(*b*) If so, will the Government take steps to ascertain the reasons for this excessive consumption with a view to its reduction?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) The cause of the larger consumption of opium in the Gódávari district has been investigated on various occasions, and it has been reported that the drug is used as a preventive of fever and other diseases in the more malarious tracts. The attention of the Board of Revenue will again be drawn to the matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. Narasimheswara Sarma :—

896 [XIII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to consider and adopt measures for the carrying out of the recommendations of the Committee on Industrial Education in regard to the starting of an institute of experiment in the metal industries of Madras (*vide* page 21 of their report)?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—The Government do not propose at present to start the particular institute referred to in the question.

The Hon'ble Mr. Narasimheswara Sarma :—

897 [XIV] *Question.*—Is it a fact that the peasantry in the district of Vizagapatam emigrate largely to Rangoon, Natal and foreign settlements in search of a living?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—According to the annual Emigration Report for the year 1906, 553 emigrants left the Vizagapatam district during the year for Natal.

With regard to emigration to Burma, which is not under statutory regulation, there are no returns showing emigrants and immigrants as such, but 24,716

passengers embarked for Burma from Vizagapatam and 25,603 passengers, nearly all of whom are believed to have come from Burma, returned to the district, exclusive of indentured immigrants, during the same year. The statistics do not distinguish between ordinary passengers and labourers in search of work.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

898 [XV] *Question.*—(1) Is it a fact that the rates of fees for grazing in Vizagapatam have been enhanced ?

(2) If so, why have they been enhanced ?

(3) Will Government reduce them ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—(1) & (2) The answer is in the negative. The fees imposed in Sarvasiddhi taluk have been in force since 1896 and those in the rest of the district since 1895.

(3) The Government see no reason to reduce them.

The Hon'ble Raja VIRABHADRA RAZU Bahadur of Kurupam :—

899 [XVI] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the native population of Rajahmundry are prohibited from sounding drums and playing on musical instruments between the hours of 11 P.M. and 6 A.M. on marriage and other ceremonial occasions ?

(*b*) Is it also a fact that the people are prohibited from sounding such drums even when the ceremonies are confined to the house and do not take the form of processions in public streets ?

(*c*) If Government cannot see their way to abolish the rule altogether, will they be pleased to order its being put into force only when the hour of the ceremonies is of an optional nature and its being relaxed to suit the sentiments and customs of the people in all other circumstances ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—There is no such general prohibition; but under the ordinary law any person blowing horns, etc., so as to cause a public nuisance can be prosecuted criminally.

The Hon'ble Raja VIRABHADRA RAZU Bahadur of Kurupam :—

900 [XVII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that about the year 1897–1898 certain zamindars in the Ganjám and Vizagapatam districts were recommended to be invested with power to fine village officers coming under section 2 of Act II of 1894 ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the matter had to be dropped for the time being owing to the difficulty of determining how the fines were to be collected as the emoluments of the said village officers consisted in lands ?

(*c*) If the salary system is going to supersede emoluments in land, will Government be pleased to advise the Board of Revenue to invest zamindars with the said power in all cases in which the salary system is introduced ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—It is a fact that in 1897 certain proposals were made with the object of empowering zamindars to punish village officers by fine under section 16 of the Proprietary Estates' Village Service Act and that the Government then postponed the consideration of these proposals until the system of payment by fixed money salaries should be introduced. That system has not yet been introduced, but the Government have no present intention of conferring the powers in question on zamindars.

The Hon'ble Raja VIRABHADRA RAZU Bahadur of Kurupam:—

901 [XVIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the income derived by the Civil Hospital, Vizagapatam, from the sale of medicines is going down owing to the establishment of a private dispensary and a chemist's shop at the place; and that the hospital has not, for some time, been able to make both ends meet?

(*b*) Are Government aware that patients have often been refused admission into the hospital owing to the inadequacy of funds needed for dieting charges and European medicines?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the District Board of Vizagapatam expressed its willingness to raise its contribution towards the hospital funds from Rs. 3,840 to Rs. 6,000 annually but that Government have vetoed the same?

(*d*) Will Government be pleased to permit the District Board to raise its contribution as above, or otherwise aid the institution with funds?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley:—

Answer.—(*a*) & (*b*) The Government are aware that the Hospital Committee was, until recently, in need of funds; they have no information in regard to the other points mentioned in these questions.

(*c*) The answer to this question is in the affirmative; the provision was struck out of the budget proposals of the District Board for 1907–1908 on the ground that the financial condition of the Board at that time did not justify a permanent addition to its recurring charges. A special grant of Rs. 2,000 to this institution from the funds of the District Board was however sanctioned in G.O., No. 825 L., dated 18th June 1907.

(*d*) The Government will be prepared to consider the suggestion if the District Board can show its ability to meet the charge from its normal income.

The Hon'ble Raja VIRABHADRA RAZU Bahadur of Kurupam:—

902 [XIX] *Question.*—(*a*) With reference to the introduction of earthen pipes in the place of palmyra sluices for distribution of water in the deltaic tracts of the Gódávari and Kistna districts during the current fasli, will Government be pleased to state what area is irrigated under the new pipe system and in what taluks of the said districts?

(*b*) How does the new system compare with the old one as regards the facilities for irrigating the lands?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to place on the table the report of the Superintending Engineer and the order of Government sanctioning the introduction of the pipe system in the said districts?

The Hon'ble Mr. Wilson:—

Answer.—(*a*) The substitution of pipe sluices for palmyra spouts is merely one step in the direction of providing an equitable and economical distribution of water and generally improving the deltas and freeing them from submersion. Pipe sluices were provided for new channels in the Kistna delta as far back as 1893 so that the system is not new. Government have no information as to the area at present supplied from pipe sluices, and as it is intended to provide all the channels with pipe sluices, there seems to be no useful object served in obtaining this information from the local officers.

(*b*) Owing to the palmyra spouts being all of one size, they cannot be proportioned to the areas under them, and thus excessive quantities of water are liable to be poured on to the lands. These spouts cannot be regulated and those at the head of a channel take off more water than they should and may thus deprive of their fair share of water the lands at the tail end of the channel. The pipe sluices are designed to assist in rectifying these evils.

(*c*) Government are not prepared to place on the table the executive orders introducing the system.

The Hon'ble Raja VIRABHADRA RAZU Bahadur of Kurupam:—

903 [XX] *Question.*—(*a*) Have Government received a memorial from the worshippers of Sri Janardhanaswami at Dowlaishweram in the Gódávari district complaining against the action of the Rajahmundry Taluk Board in first according sanction to a masonry shed being constructed for the use of the temple car on 10th February 1905 and then prohibiting the completion of the shed on 17th April 1905 on the alleged ground that the proposed shed encroached upon a public street?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the Chairman and members of Dowlaishweram union inspected the site before according sanction to the construction of the masonry shed and were at the spot when the foundations were cut?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to order a cancellation of the order of the Taluk Board and permit the temple trustees to go on with the work?

(*d*) Will Government be pleased to order the Rajahmundry Taluk Board to award suitable compensation to the temple trustees for the loss sustained by them in gathering materials and raising an incomplete structure on the strength of the permission granted to them by the President on 20th February 1905?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer to this question is in the affirmative.

(*b*) The Government have no information on the subject.

(*c*) & (*d*) The memorial is under the consideration of Government.

The Hon'ble Raja VIRABHADRA RAZU Bahadur of Kurupam:—

904 [XXI] *Question.*—(*a*) Are Government aware of the fact that the time-gun fired every night at 9 o'clock at Vizagapatam has been in existence since 1871, and that its sudden discontinuance recently is causing much inconvenience to the people?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to state the circumstances under which it has been ordered to be discontinued?

(*c*) Will Government be further pleased to undertake firing the gun as usual, if necessary with the aid of private subscriptions, in case they cannot see their way to permit an individual to fire it as hitherto?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—The Government have no information on the subject. A report from the Collector has been called for.

The Hon'ble Sir V. DESIKACHARIYAR :—

905 [XXII] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to place on the table the notification of the Government of India about the preference to be given, in the purchase of articles required for the various departments of Government, to Indian manufactured articles over articles not manufactured in India in all cases wherever practicable?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state if the said notification has been sent to such departments as the Salt and Abkári, the Police, etc., who make it a practice to call for tenders?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—A copy of G.O., No. 554, Financial, dated 22nd June 1898, will be laid on the table.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

906 [XXIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the Government have passed an order for the special guidance of the officers of the Madras Ophthalmic Hospital prohibiting them from accepting fees from patients?

(*b*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to certain instances of the alleged ill-treatment of the patients of the Madras Ophthalmic Hospital by the officers thereof, mentioned by Sam Manikam of Saidapet in a memorial on "The Health of the people of India", dated 25th June 1907, submitted by him to the Government of India?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state what action they have taken regarding these allegations?

(*d*) Having regard to the serious nature of the allegations, will the Government be pleased to make an enquiry into the truth or otherwise of these allegations, and take such other action as they think fit?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—(*a*) The officers of the hospital are prohibited from accepting fees from hospital patients.

(*b*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*c*) & (*d*) The Government have ordered that the matter shall be inquired into.

The Hon'ble Mr. Krishnan Nayar :—

907 [XXIV] *Question.*—(*a*) Are the Government aware that two roads, which run through the Fort Esplanade at Cannanore in the Malabar district and which had been used by the public without any let or hindrance for about half a century, have lately been closed to the public by the Officer Commanding the 79th Carnatic Native Infantry by means of wooden gates put across them?

(*b*) Were the roads in question opened and are they being maintained with public funds?

(*c*) Were the roads open to the public when the neighbouring blocks of barracks were exclusively occupied by European troops and when Cannanore was a first-class Military station?

(*d*) What circumstances have now arisen to justify the closing of the roads to the public?

(*e*) Are the blocks of barracks which were exclusively used by European troops when Cannanore was a first-class Military station now occupied by the sepoys of the 79th Carnatic Infantry except a small portion which is tenanted by a detachment of European soldiers numbering about 100?

(*f*) Has any representation been received by Government from the Municipal Council, Cannanore, with reference to the public inconvenience caused by the blocking of the roads?

(*g*) Will the Government be pleased to order the removal of the obstruction on the roads in question or to direct that no public funds be expended on them in future?

(*h*) Is it a fact that a public road runs right through the middle of European barracks at Bangalore and that the public are not excluded from it?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—(*a*) *to* (*g*) It has been brought to the notice of Government by the Municipal Council, Cannanore, that two roads which pass through the Maidan Military quarters at Cannanore and which were till recently used by the public have been closed to the public by the Military authorities. From the information before Government it appears that the Military authorities have long been in the habit of closing the roads through the maidan when using the rifle ranges. The Government have no information as to the date on which the roads were originally constructed, but they appear originally to have been cantonment roads. The roads in the cantonment are, as far as it can be ascertained, maintained from Imperial Military funds. It does not appear that any funds are being expended upon their upkeep from Provincial funds. The other matters referred to by the Honourable Member do not appear to be within the discretion of the Local Government.

(*h*) The Government have no information on the subject.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

908 [XXV] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state what action they have taken or intend taking with reference to the conduct of Dr. Kemp who assaulted Kopalli Krishna Rao of Cocanada?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—Captain Kemp's conduct is under the consideration of Government. His explanation was received last week. The Government deferred the consideration of his conduct while the cases arising out of the incident were *sub judice.*

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

909 [XXVI] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the reasons which induced them to think that " the area comprised within the limits of the Municipal town of Cocanada " was " in a disturbed state " and that " the conduct of the inhabitants of the said area " rendered it expedient to quarter a Punitive Police Force in the said area?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the Municipal Council of Cocanada made a request to the Government to disband the Punitive Police Force employed in the town?

(*c*) Is the town of Cocanada now " in a disturbed state "?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to disband the Punitive Police Force quartered in Cocanada?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—(*a*) The reasons which led the Government to quarter a Punitive Police Force were the existence of disorder and unrest indicated by the actions and attitude of the people and an attack upon the Cocanada Club by a large mob.

(*b*) The Municipal Council passed a resolution to the effect stated on the 30th July 1907 which was communicated to the Government on the 30th August 1907.

(*c*) & (*d*) By an order in Council, dated 23rd November 1907, the Government have decided to reduce the period during which the force is to be quartered in the town from two years to six months.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

910 [XXVII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that in June 1907 the Government sent a body of troops to Rajahmundry?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state the reasons which led to the despatch of the troops?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) The existence of local disorder and the danger to the public peace were the reasons which necessitated the action taken.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

911 [XXVIII] *Question.*—Adverting to the answer of the Government to Question No. XVIII * (*b*) asked at the meeting of this Council held on the 9th April 1907, will the Government be pleased to state whether they have received the further report promised by the Superintending Engineer on the subject of the feeding channel for the Vilattikulam tank and what action the Government have taken on the report?

* 871 *supra*, p. 306.

The Hon'ble Mr. Wilson :—

Answer.—The report in question has not yet been received from the Superintending Engineer who is being directed to expedite its submission.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

912 [XXIX] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to a letter under the heading of "Are Assistant Surgeons Gazetted Officers" published in the *Madras Mail* of the 1st July 1907 and another letter under the heading of "Civil Assistant Surgeons" published in the *Madras Mail* of 18th September 1907 ?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to order that all Civil Assistant Surgeons be regarded and treated as gazetted officers for all purposes including purposes of audit, and be allowed to draw their pay on their own signatures without the countersignatures of their controlling officers ?

(*c*) Is it a fact that Civil Assistant Surgeons in the other provinces of India including Burma are regarded as gazetted officers for all purposes ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government have now perused the letters.

(*b*) The matter will receive the consideration of the Government.

(*c*) The Government have no information as to the practice in other provinces.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

913 [XXX] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state in what stage the Tungabahdra project is, and whether there is any prospect of the project being undertaken in the near future ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Wilson :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to Question No. VIII * asked by the Hon'ble Mr. Narasimheswara Sarma.

* 891 *supra*, p. 315.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

914 [XXXI] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Madras rules regulating the personal conduct of Government servants, except with regard to purely local rulings, have been cancelled ?

(*b*) If so, what are the purely local rulings referred to ?

(*c*) Are the Government Servants' Conduct Rules of 1904 the only rules now in force ?

(*d*) If so, what is the meaning and scope of the expression "within local limits of his authority" in rule No. 7 of the aforesaid manual—

(1) in the case of gazetted officers ? and

(2) in the case of non-gazetted officers ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BRADLEY :—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer to the question is in the affirmative.

(*b*) & (*c*) Such of the rulings in the Madras pamphlet as are not inconsistent with the rulings contained in the "Government Servants' Conduct Rules, 1904" and not contained therein must be considered to be still in force. A Madras supplement to the "Government Servants' Conduct Rules" is under preparation.

(*d*) The supplement about to be issued will contain orders on this point. Meanwhile former rulings on the subject, which have been laid down in Government orders from time to time, continue to apply.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

915 [XXXII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that large quantities of adulterated ghee are imported into this presidency ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to consider the advisability of passing a measure analogous to the Ghee Adulteration Acts of Bombay and Calcutta for the Madras Presidency ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government have no information.

(*b*) The Honourable Member does not specify the enactments of the Bombay and Bengal Legislature to which he refers. Presumably, Act No. II of 1889 is the Bombay Act he refers to. Section 495 of the Calcutta Municipal Act (Bengal Act III of 1899) corresponds to the provisions of section 357 of the Madras City Municipal Act, 1904, and of section 37 of the Hill Municipalities Act, 1907. The Honourable Member's attention will also be invited to the provisions of section 204 of the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1884, and to sections 272 and 273 of the Indian Penal Code.

The Government have not had under consideration the question of special legislation on the subject and are unable at present to say when the matter can be considered.

The Hon'ble Mr. Srinivasa Rao :—

916 [XXXIII] *Question*.—Will the Government be pleased to reconsider the decision regarding the punishment inflicted on the large number of the students of the Rajahmundry College and take a more lenient view of the case?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—The matter has been fully considered and the Government are not prepared to modify the orders already passed.

The Hon'ble Mr. Srinivasa Rao :—

917 [XXXIV] *Question*.—Will the Government be pleased to state in what stage the question of raising the pay of the taluk gumastahs is, and will the Government be pleased to pass early orders on the subject?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—The question of revision of the clerical establishments in taluk offices is at present under the consideration of the Board of Revenue and the Board has been requested to expedite its proposals?

The Hon'ble Mr. Srinivasa Rao :—

918 [XXXV] *Question*.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether, as stated in G.Os., No. 374, Revenue, of 25th April 1906, and No. 547, Revenue, of 16th June 1906, the District Forest Officer of Kurnool has completed arrangements for carrying Nallamalai wood to Kurnool by boats, and whether the Government would be pleased to pass orders for the further reduction of the price of firewood from Rs. $8\frac{1}{2}$ per ton to Rs. 7?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—The Government are not aware whether the arrangements for bringing fuel to Kurnool by boat have been completed and are unable therefore to order the further reduction in the price of firewood suggested in the question. A report will be called for.

The Hon'ble Mr. Srinivasa Rao :—

919 [XXXVI] *Question*.—(*a*) Is it a fact that firewood is being sold in the Forest depot, Kurnool, by heaps and not by weight, and that the people sustain loss by sale in heaps instead of by weight?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to direct the sale of firewood by weight?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—The Government have no information as to whether firewood is sold by weight or by measurement at the Kurnool depot, and see no reason to think that loss is caused by the latter method. They do not at present propose to direct that it should be abandoned.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

920 [XXXVII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to consider the advisability of withdrawing the Punitive Police from Cocanada ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to Question No. XXVI (*c*) & (*d*)* asked by the Hon'ble Mr. Krishnan Nayar. * 909 *supra*, p. 322.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

921 [XXXVIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the Government's attention been drawn to the editorial note in the *Hindu* of the 21st August 1907 on the subject of certain alleged acts of maladministration in the Ophthalmic Hospital, Madras ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to institute an enquiry into the various allegations made therein, and take the necessary steps for removing all cause for complaint in so important and useful an institution as the Ophthalmic Hospital, Madras ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to Question No. XXIII † asked by the Hon'ble Mr. Krishnan Nayar. † 906 *supra*, p. 320.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

922 [XXXIX] *Question.*—(*a*) Have the Government received a memorial of the people of Dowlaishweram, Rajahmundry taluk, addressed to the Government in July 1907, praying that the car-shed built at considerable public cost for the temple of Sri Janardhanaswami, Dowlaishweram, may not be disturbed, and that the resolution of the Taluk Board, Rajahmundry, to acquire the site of the car-shed treating the erection of the car-shed as an encroachment may be cancelled ?

(*b*) And if so, will the Government be pleased to comply with the request contained in the memorial ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to Question No. XX ‡ asked by the Hon'ble Raja Virabhadra Razu Bahadur. ‡ 903 *supra*, p. 320.

The Hon'ble Mr. SRINIVASA RAO :—

923 [XL] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to consider the feasibility of reducing the cost of firewood supplied in the Bellary depot by getting the firewood from Kambalapalli by boats to Nandyal so as to be delivered to the Nandyal railway authorities at Ponnepally platform, instead of as at present getting it from Diguvamettam, Chelama, Bethamcherla and Malkapur, which increases the cost of supply on account of their greater distance from Bellary than Kambalapalli ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—The Government have no information. The Board of Revenue will be requested to consider whether any reduction in the price of firewood in the Bellary depot can be effected.

The Hon'ble Mr. GURUSWAMI AIYAR :—

924 [XLI] *Question.*—(*a*) With reference to the proposal of Government to create three new districts and sixteen additional divisions, will Government be pleased to state if any of the five new district offices (three Collectors and two Judges) are to be reserved for the Provincial Civil Service, and, if so, what offices ?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to state if any of the new sixteen divisional offices are to be added to the number available for the Covenanted Civil Service, and, if so, how many ?

(*c*) Have Government made any recommendation in respect to all or any of the new district and divisional offices, and, if so, to what effect?

(*d*) If not, will Government be pleased to recommend that all or any of the new district and divisional offices be reserved for the Provincial Civil Service?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—The matter is still under consideration and final orders have not yet been passed.

The Hon'ble Mr. GURUSWAMI AIYAR :—

925 [XLII] *Question*.—(*a*) Have Government acquired about two and a half acres of dry land belonging to a few Kammavar Naick inhabitants of Aruppukottai in the Madura district at a cost of about Rs. 550 for the construction of a Deputy Tahsildar's office thereon?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the houses of that community are all huddled together in a very small area without any cattle-sheds, backyards or privy accommodation and that the whole community have been using the site now acquired and some adjacent dry lands for such purposes by the sufferance of the owners?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the owners have represented to Government that their consent to the acquisition was not free and voluntary but induced by undue persuasion?

(*d*) Is it a fact that another site next to the recently-constructed Sub-Registry office was rejected as costing more than Rs. 2,500 and that the Naick community offered in their memorial to Government to pay the whole of such cost in exchange for the grant to themselves of the site now acquired?

(*e*) Is it a fact that the Collector of the district has not himself seen the two sites in question or the Naick habitations, and will Government be pleased to direct him to do so, hear the said community on the spot, and make his recommendations on the subject?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—The site selected for the Deputy Tahsildar's office at Aruppukottai has been inspected by two Collectors of Madura, by the Additional District Magistrate and by the Divisional Officer, and the alternative site referred to in the question was rejected after personal inspection. The Government considered a petition on the subject and found that the allegations therein, some of which are repeated in the question, were contrary to fact. The land has already been acquired under the Land Acquisition Act and the Government are not prepared to interfere.

The Hon'ble Mr. GURUSWAMI AIYAR :—

926 [XLIII] *Question*.—(*a*) With reference to the answer of Government to my Question No. XXV (*g*) and (*h*)* (regarding transfer of medical subordinates) asked at the meeting of this Council on 9th April last, will Government be pleased to state if they have since had an opportunity to consider the matter, and, if so, with what result?

(*b*) If not, will Government be pleased to call for proposals from the head of the department concerned?

* 878 supra, p. 309.

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to a similar question † asked by the Hon'ble Mr. Venkata Rao at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 27th January 1905. The Government have no reason to believe that transfers are being made more frequently than is required by the exigencies of the public service. The power of transfer of subordinates lies with the head of the department, and the Government are not disposed to interfere with his discretion.

† 576 supra, p. 200.

The Hon'ble Mr. GURUSWAMI AIYAR :—

927 [XLIV] *Question.*—(*a*) Have Government perused—

(1) the open letter addressed to the Secretary of State for India by Mr. Sam Manikam of Saidapet praying for an inquiry into the working of the Medical and the Sanitary departments of India;

(2) the supplement to that open letter sent by the same gentleman to the Government of India praying for an inquiry into the irregularities of the medical officers responsible for the good administration of Ophthalmic Hospital, Madras;

(3) the leading article in the *Hindu* of the 21st August 1907 recommending a searching inquiry into the serious allegations made against those officers?

(*b*) Have Government made an inquiry hitherto, and, if so, will they be pleased to lay the papers relating thereto on the table and state if the conduct of the officers concerned has been found free from reproach?

(*c*) If not, will Government be pleased to order an early inquiry or direct the officers concerned to take steps to clear their reputation?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to Question No. XXIII * asked by the Hon'ble Mr. Krishnan Nayar. * 906 *supra*, p. 320.

The Hon'ble Mr. GURUSWAMI AIYAR :—

928 [XLV] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the articles signed "Padma" and "Medico" respectively in the *Madras Mail* of the 1st July 1907 and 18th July 1907 on the status of Civil Assistant Surgeons?

(*b*) Have any orders been issued by Government to the effect that all Civil Assistant Surgeons are to be deemed gazetted officers except for purposes of audit? If so, will Government be pleased to state why their postings, transfers, etc., are not all published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, and to direct that such publication be made hereafter?

(*c*) Is it a fact that a considerable number of Civil Assistant Surgeons are not allowed to draw, on transfer, travelling allowance for family and servants which non-gazetted officers draw under article 1098 of the Civil Service Regulations?

(*d*) Is it also a fact that Civil Assistant Surgeons are not allowed to draw mileage due to gazetted officers but only the same restricted to actual expenses?

(*e*) Is it a fact that all Civil Assistant Surgeons in Burma and some other provinces are given full privileges of gazetted officers in all matters?

(*f*) Will Government be pleased to consider if the status of all these officers may not be improved so as to allow them the full privileges of gazetted officers in all particulars?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to Question No. XXIX† asked by the Hon'ble Mr. Krishnan Nayar. † 912 *supra*, p. 323.

The Hon'ble Mr. GURUSWAMI AIYAR :—

929 [XLVI] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that any of the three appointments reserved for Military Assistant Surgeons in the Agency tracts under G.O., No. 163, dated 22nd February 1904, are at present held by civil medical subordinates, and, if so, where and why and on what terms?

(*b*) Do Government think it necessary to continue the reservation any longer?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—The Government will call for the information.

The Hon'ble Mr. Guruswami Aiyar :—

930 [XLVII] *Question.*—With reference to G.O., No. 560, dated 25th March 1907, dismissing from service S. C. Krishna Rao, late Sub-Registrar of Kangayam in the Coimbatore district, will Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) If during the first visit to his office, which was a surprise visit by the Personal Assistant to the Inspector-General of Registration with the Deputy Collector, Erode division, the Sub-Registrar's prayer for time and other facilities to cross-examine the witnesses then suddenly examined was refused, and, if so, why ?

(*b*) If the Sub-Registrar was given an opportunity of being present at the examination of the rest of the witnesses in the case, and of cross-examining them, and, if not, why not ?

(*c*) If any specific case of levying extra fees on documents was satisfactorily brought home to the Sub-Registrar as distinguished from his head clerk, and, if not, whether Government considered a case of corruption fully proved against the former ?

(*d*) And if not, whether the previous character of the Sub-Registrar during his long service of nineteen years was not sufficiently faultless to entitle him to an acquittal or a less severe punishment ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—The Sub-Registrar appealed against his dismissal to the Government of India. That Government have dismissed the appeal. The Government regret that they are unable now to furnish the information asked for by the Honourable Member.

The Hon'ble Mr. Narasimheswara Sarma :—

931 [XLVIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the fact that relatively to area, population and the length of mileage, disproportionately small sums have been allotted especially during 1907–1908 for the improvement of open railway lines in Madras, 71·40 lakhs being the provision for Madras out of a total of 1,013·24 lakhs and that only 27·99 lakhs out of 336·76 lakhs have been provided for the construction of new lines ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to press on the Railway Board and the Government of India the claims of Madras to more equal treatment during the coming year ?

(*c*) Having regard to the fact that only 10 lakhs have been provided during 1907–1908 for the Raipur-Vizianagram line and that work beyond Parvatipuram has been directed to be stopped, will the Government be pleased to urge the speedy completion of the line ?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to see that the Ganjám district light railways, specially Chicacole-Gunupur and Chicacole-Parvatipuram lines, referred to in Appendix H in Mr. Robertson's report on the administration and working of Indian Railways, are surveyed and constructed at an early date ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Wilson :—

Answer.—(*a*) & (*b*) The figures quoted, which exclude the grant for Protective Railways, have apparently been taken from the Railway Administration Report for the calendar year 1906. Further additions have since been made by the Railway Board, and the total grants allotted up to date for 1907–1908, including the grant for the Protective Railways, are—

	Original grants.	Additions since made.	Total.
(*a*) Open line requirements	71·85	12·46	84·31
(*b*) Lines under construction	27·99	8·14	36·13

Government do not consider that Madras has reason to complain of unequal treatment. In distributing grants the Railway Board are necessarily guided by other considerations besides area, population and length of mileage. The

amounts to be allotted to open lines depend upon how far the standard to which they have attained resembles the standard which the traffic justifies, and in allotting funds for new construction the requirements of all India have to be considered and placed in order of importance.

(c) This again is a question of ways and means. The Raipur-Vizianagram Railway is now under construction by the Bengal-Nagpur Railway which is not under the control of this Government. The Railway Board considered it desirable that the greater part of the funds available should at first be devoted to work at the Vizianagram end on what would probably be the most remunerative section of the line. The Madras Presidency therefore gets the full benefit of the expenditure that, having regard to the needs of all India, the Government of India are able to spare for this railway. As funds become available, they will no doubt be allotted, but Government do not think they can reasonably urge that this railway should absorb an undue share of the funds at the disposal of the Government of India.

(d) Government will consider the question, but in view of the heavy demands on account of open lines and the large mileage of lines at present under construction, the construction of these lines must, it is feared, be left to local enterprise.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

932 [XLIX] *Question.*—(a) Is it a fact that rice is selling above warning rates in all districts of the Presidency and that its price has either reached the scarcity rate or is ruling higher in most of the districts especially the Circars and the Deccan and that the prices of all other food-grains are equally abnormally high?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the crops have failed in the Circars and the Deccan except under river systems, owing to a deficiency in rainfall or unseasonable rainfalls, and whether the yield in the deltas is below the normal rate?

(c) Have the Government received any special report or reports from the Collectors regarding the state of the season and the condition of the people, and will the Government be pleased to place the same, if any, on the table?

(d) If no reports have been received, will the Government be pleased to call for them?

(e) Will the Government be pleased to suspend or remit the collection of revenue in the tracts badly affected and consider the desirability of opening test-works therein?

(f) Having regard to the abnormal prices of food-grains and the increased cost of living, will the Government be pleased to favourably consider the desirability of granting allowances to low-paid clerks and menial servants in its employ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—(a) In the week ending 16th November 1907, the average price of rice was above warning rates in all districts and above scarcity rates in twelve. As was stated in answer to Question No. XX * asked by the Hon'ble Mr. Krishnan Nayar at the Council meeting of the 22nd January 1907 the revision of the "normal", "warning" and "scarcity" rates is under consideration, as the existing rates are based on data commencing over 30 years ago and no longer correctly represent existing conditions.

* 835 *supra*, p. 296.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to the season reports published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, a file of which is placed on the table. The outturn of crops outside the river systems is in some areas below normal.

(c) & (d) The Board of Revenue has submitted a special report to Government after consulting Collectors. G.O., No. 2911, dated 26th November 1907, which contains this report will be printed and placed on the table.

(e) Remissions for total loss on wet lands can be given by the Collector and suspensions of kist within the fasli can be ordered by the Board. The Government do not propose to interfere with the discretion of those authorities. The necessity for opening test-works has not as yet arisen.

(*f*) The Government recognise that present prices must cause some hardship to officers on small salaries. The matter comes under the rules laid down for regulating compensation for dearness of provisions in the Civil Account Code.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

933 [L] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that enhanced grazing fees are being levied in the Government forests of Vizagapatam and Kurnool?

(*b*) If so, why have they been enhanced?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to reduce the rates where free grazing is not possible?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—(*a*) With reference to Vizagapatam the Honourable Member's attention is drawn to the answer given to his Question No. XV.*

* 898 *supra*, p. 318.

In the greater portion of Kurnool the rates fixed in 1895 are still in force. In 1898 special rates were charged on large herds of cattle kept in "kraals" in the reserved forests of the Nallamalais and belonging to dealers. In 1902 the rates for other cattle grazing in these and the adjoining reserves were slightly enhanced. The rates have not been altered since.

(*b*) Enhanced fees have been imposed in order to prevent overgrazing in the Nallamalais and adjoining reserves.

(*c*) The Government have recently considered the question of grazing fees and they do not propose to alter those now in force.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

934 [LI] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state if there are any proposals or considered plans for the preservation or conservation of forests adjoining the sources of rivers, springs and important hill streams on which the irrigation of the presidency depends?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to invite the co-operation of the zamindars in the matter and enable them to conserve water-sources by affording them facilities by the grant of sanction under clauses (*b*) and (*c*) of section 32 of the Forest Act or otherwise?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—(*a*) The conservation of the head waters of rivers and springs has been one of the main objects of forest reservation since forest reservation commenced.

(*b*) Rules have already been framed under section 32 of the Madras Forest Act, 1882, to provide for the protection of forests in various zamindari estates, and the Government are at all times prepared to consider proposals from zamindars.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

935 [LII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the elective element has been introduced into the Taluk Boards and Union Panchayats throughout the whole of India except in Madras and the North-West Frontier Province?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the number of scholars in public and private institutions in Madras is much larger than in any other province except Bengal and that education is as widely spread here as elsewhere?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to introduce the elective element into the Taluk Boards and Union Panchayats in Madras also?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government have no precise information on the subject. The structure and powers of Taluk Boards and Union Panchayats vary considerably in the various provinces. It is believed that the elective principle has in some other provinces been introduced into some local bodies which correspond to the Taluk Boards of this presidency, and that the elective system exists in Union Committees in Bengal.

(*b*) The Government are unable to furnish any comparative figures which are trustworthy on this subject.

(*c*) The question of introducing the elective system into Taluk Boards is under the consideration of Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. Narasimhheswara Sarma :—

936 [LIII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) Whether the Gódávari irrigation system has always been expected to meet and has been meeting the full requirements of the wet lands in the delta in the worst seasons of drought without rainfall on the lands being taken into consideration?

(*b*) Whether any estimate has been prepared as to how much additional land can be reduced to wet and brought under the irrigational system in the Gódávari delta, east, central and west, and how much of it is swamp near the sea?

(*c*) What saving is calculated to be effected in the use of water under the new system of distribution which is being introduced and how much land is expected to be irrigated by reason of such saving?

(*d*) Whether the duty of water was in former years estimated to be on the average 66 acres per cusec and was in practice much lower in the case of many lands, and a uniform rate of 90 is being sought to be introduced now?

(*e*) Whether under the old system of turns all the lands were irrigated without obstruction from owners of fields higher up the distributary or irrigating channel by reason of the rapid and copious supply to and passage of water over the fields?

(*f*) Whether, under the new system, fields in a block which are on a slightly higher level than the rest are greatly handicapped by reason of the higher duty prescribed and the slow passage of water which is either absorbed or intercepted by the owners of low-lying or favourably-situated plots?

(*g*) Whether there is any law which can compel ryots to allow water received under the new method of distribution to pass from their fields on to those of their neighbours, especially as the old customary methods have been altered, and in the absence of such a law, the new system is workable and not calculated to cause great hardship to a large body of ryots?

(*h*) Have the Government received any complaints or reports that an appreciably large area of mamul wet has not been transplanted or transplanted late or yielded or is expected to yield a very poor crop owing to insufficient supply of water?

(*i*) Is it a fact that water, if allowed to stagnate and not pass from the field, the rice crop would even in rich soils suffer and would die in saline soils, and has provision been made under the new system for such necessary waste?

(*j*) How much of the wet area has failed to yield—

(1) a normal crop or

(2) any crop under the old system in any of the worst years of drought and whether such land is situated at the tail end and was newly reclaimed land?

(*k*) Is it a fact that this year even on good lands the crop has been much below the normal, and will the Government be pleased to collect information and call for a report on the subject?

(*l*) How many main and minor distributaries have been remodelled to suit the requirements of the new system and whether the old spouts have been removed and new pipes placed in channels which have not been remodelled?

(*m*) Will the Government be pleased to investigate whether the ryots have not a legitimate cause of complaint by reason of such removal?

(*n*) Is it a fact that under the new system an appreciable portion of the land under wet cultivation in the delta is expected to be treated as dry, and will the Government be pleased to state how much the acreage would be and whether they would compensate the owners for the loss they may sustain ?

(*o*) Will the Government be pleased to try the effects of the working of the new system in one or two main distributaries before introducing the same into the whole delta ?

(*p*) Will the Government be pleased to appoint a commission consisting of expert Public Works and Revenue officers and a few non-officials to report on the whole subject ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Wilson :—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer to this question is in the negative; the area varies considerably with the season.

(*b*) The answer is in the negative.

(*c*) No information is yet available.

(*d*) Canals were originally designed for a duty of 66 acres per cubic foot per second, but the actual duty attained has always been much higher and a duty of 90 is being introduced now.

(*e*) There is no information available as to the old system of turns.

(*f*) Under the new system, Government have no reason to anticipate any of the disadvantages suggested; on the contrary, Government believe it will effect a most equitable and efficient distribution of the water available.

(*g*) The Government are unable to advise on questions of law.

(*h*) & (*j*) The Government have no information on the subject.

(*i*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*k*) The Government have no information and see no necessity to call for it.

(*l*) No information is available as to the number of distributaries remodelled up to date; the work has only just been begun.

(*m*) The Government are satisfied that the removal of the old spouts does not furnish any cause for complaint and are not prepared to order an enquiry.

(*n*) The Government have no information and it is not anticipated that any appreciable portion of the land will have to be so treated.

(*o*) The work must unavoidably be carried out gradually and modifications will, if found necessary, be introduced.

(*p*) Government are not prepared to appoint a Commission.

The Hon'ble Mr. Narasimheswara Sarma :—

937 [LIV] *Question.*—With reference to the statement of Sir H. Adamson at the meeting of the Supreme Legislative Council held on the 1st November 1907, that there was a disturbance at Rajahmundry which necessitated the despatch of troops to that place, will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) Whether your Excellency's Government reported to the Government of India that there was a disturbance at Rajahmundry which necessitated the despatch of troops to that place ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state what the disturbance at Rajahmundry was which necessitated the despatch of troops to that place ?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state the information on which action was taken and troops were sent ?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to place on the table the reports of the local officers, including those of the Superintendent of Police, the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, the Divisional and District Officers, regarding the incidents which led to the despatch of troops ?

(*e*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the account published in the *Hindu* of the 17th and 24th June 1907 and the *Bharata* of Rajahmundry detailing the circumstances under which a European employed in the Madras Railway was assaulted on the night of the 10th June 1907 or thereabouts; and will the Government be pleased to state whether the said account is substantially true?

(*f*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they made any enquiry either with reference to the said account published in the *Hindu* or otherwise, and, if so, with what result; and will the Government be pleased to place on the table the reports received in connection therewith and the orders of the Government thereon?

(*g*) Did the said European employé of the Madras Railway lodge a complaint in the matter regarding the circumstance under which he was assaulted; and whether any enquiry was held and the evidence of any Public Works Department officers employed at Dowlaishweram was taken, and, if so, with what result?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—The Government of Madras despatched troops to Rajahmundry to assist in maintaining order and to prevent any serious breach of the peace such as the Government apprehended in the Gódávari district. The Government decline to state the information on which action was taken or to place on the table the reports of local officers. The Government have not seen the accounts referred to in the *Hindu* and *Bharata*, but caused an inquiry to be held into the circumstances of the assault referred to. They decline to place the reports on the table. So far as the Government are aware, no complaint was lodged by the European employé of the Madras Railway. An enquiry was held and the evidence of some of the Public Works officers at Dowlaishweram was taken. With regard to the European employé the Government have no knowledge of the result of the enquiry. Two Public Works officers were transferred from the district and censured by the head of the department.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

938 [LV] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that Dr. Kemp, District Medical and Sanitary Officer, Cocanada, had left Cocanada after the assault on the boy K. Krishna Rao on the 31st May 1907, and visited Madras and Ootacamund before he rejoined his duty at Cocanada?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the visits to Madras and Ootacamund were under the orders of the Government or his superior officers or on his own initiative and were purely personal and private?

(*c*) Has any batta or travelling allowance been paid to him on the said occasion and has he been treated as on leave during the said period, and, if so, why?

(*d*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the fact that the hospital assistant on duty Mr. Sankarasubbayya Pillai deposed that though he was told that the boy Krishna Rao was unconscious and requested to attend on him he declined to do so?

(*e*) Will the Government be pleased to take notice of the conduct of the medical men who failed to render help to the boy though requested?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) Captain Kemp's journey to Madras was made under the orders of his superior officer. The Government are not aware whether his journey to Ootacamund was made under orders.

(*c*) The Government have enquired and ascertained that he has received travelling allowance for both journeys. Further inquiries will be made as to his eligibility for travelling allowance for the journey from Madras to Ootacamund and back.

(*d*) & (*e*) The Government have no information as to the correctness of the statement made regarding the hospital assistant; but a reference will be made to the Surgeon-General on the matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

939 [LVI] *Question.*—(*a*) Have the townsmen of Cocanada in public meeting assembled deplored the incident at the European Club and condemned the action of the rioters and memorialised the Government that the quartering of the punitive police was absolutely unnecessary and a slur on their loyalty and prayed for its removal?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether there was any disturbance of the public tranquility at any time within the last one year with the exception of the incident at the club?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are not satisfied now, after the judgment of the Sessions Court, Rajahmundry, or otherwise, that no respectable men at Cocanada were connected with the incident and that the mob went to the club to seek Dr. Kemp owing to the assault on the boy?

(*d*) How much is the punitive police likely to cost the town per year?

(*e*) Will the Government be pleased to withdraw the same?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—(*a*) A memorial from certain inhabitants of Cocanada to the general effect stated in the question was received by Government on the 20th September.

(*b*) The Government have not heard of any other serious disturbance of the public tranquility.

(*c*) The Government are not prepared to express an opinion on the question whether any respectable inhabitants of the town were concerned in the attack upon the club. The Government do not doubt that the attack upon the club was an organised one.

(*d*) Rs. 20,000 per annum.

(*e*) The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to Question No. XXVI (*c*) & (*d*) * asked by the Hon'ble Mr. Krishnan Nayar.

* 909 *supra*, p. 322.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

940 [LVII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that a "Harikatha Kalashepam" was dispersed at Cocanada on the night of the 9th July 1907 (Tuesday) by Mr. Atkinson, Assistant Superintendent of Police, as stated in the *Hindu* of the 17th July 1907?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the assembly was engaged *boná fide* in the recital of Harikatha, and have the Government enquired into the circumstances which led to the dispersal?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to take steps to prevent the occurrence of such incidents in future as far as possible?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley :—

Answer.—The Government have no information and have received no complaint relating to the matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

941 [LVIII] *Question.*—(*a*) With reference to the Government Order, dated 18th June 1907, relating to the incidents in the Government College, Rajahmundry, will the Government be pleased to state whether the enquiry referred to therein was not purely departmental and confidential and whether the students rusticated or their guardians were called upon to explain or afforded an opportunity for explaining any circumstances which might have appeared against them before action was taken?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the memorial, dated 29th April 1907, referred to is the memorial by the students to the Director published in the *Hindu*, dated 31st July 1907, how many signed it and whether the memorialists have been asked to substantiate their statements?

(*c*) Is it a fact that of the 129 students referred to in the Government Order several were absent from the college on the day of the occurrence ?

(*d*) With reference to the complaints made to Mr. Hunter against the students of the college that they were guilty of discreditable conduct in public streets, will the Government be pleased to state (1) whether it is a fact that at the meeting of the 19th March referred to in the Government Order Mr. Hunter exonerated the students from all blame in that respect; (2) whether any enquiry has been made on the subject and the students have been asked to explain, and with what result ?

(*e*) Is it a fact that students in many of the colleges in Madras and elsewhere were attending their classes all the time with *Vande Mataram* badges without objection being taken ?

(*f*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether Mr. Hunter and his predecessor in office were in the habit of issuing orders in writing and posting the same on the notice-board sometimes with a warning that disobedience to such orders would entail penalties, such orders in writing extending even to unimportant matters such as that students should not pluck flowers or leaves of plants in the compound, and whether no written orders were issued prohibiting the wearing of the *Vande Mataram* badges ?

(*g*) Whether it is a fact that the non-issuing of written orders led to a wide-spread impression among the students that Mr. Hunter did not and would not issue a written order prohibiting the use of the *Vande Mataram* medals as there could be no legal prohibition against wearing them in the college and that discretion was left to them as to whether they should follow his advice not to wear them and that this circumstance led to the students' wearing the tickets on the 24th April ? If Government have no information on the above matters, will Government be pleased to obtain this information ?

(*h*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any notice was given by the college authorities to the parents or guardians that the conduct of their wards required amendment, close scrutiny and control ?

(*i*) With reference to the statement in the Government Order that *Vande Mataram* tickets had been printed over-night in accordance with a resolution passed at a students' meeting, will the Government be pleased to state when and where the said meeting was held; and having regard to the disclaimer of the students, will the Government be pleased to enquire whether it is a fact that the tickets had been printed at the Chintamani Press, Rajahmundry, and used freely for several days prior to the 24th that no meeting was held and that no resolution was passed as stated in the Government Order ?

(*j*) Is it a fact that several students when asked to remove the medals had obeyed in the first instance, and when they were asked to leave the college in case they did not remove the badges in two or three minutes many of the students had left ?

(*k*) Have nearly all the students submitted their apology and requested their Principal to admit them on the reopening of the college and the guardians submitted memorials to your Excellency's Government requesting to be excused for the thoughtless conduct of their wards ?

(*l*) Will the Government be pleased to discriminate between the ring-leaders, if any, and the rest and cancel or modify their order so as to enable the students of all classes to prosecute their studies at Rajahmundry from the next year ?

(*m*) Is it not a fact that the students have throughout claimed that they wore the badges only to express their love for their motherland and disclaimed any connection with politics ?

(*n*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether, apart from the prohibition by the Principal, the students acted illegally or wrongly in wearing the *Vande Mataram* badges when they attended the college ?

(*o*) Have the Government made any enquiries into the constitution or working of the association known as the "Bala Bharata Samiti" of Rajahmundry, and will the Government be pleased to state if there be any objection to students joining the same ?

(p) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the heads of colleges—unaided and private—have been requested not to admit the students rusticated at Rajahmundry during the period of suspension?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bradley:—

Answer.—The Honourable Member appears to be under a misapprehension as to the principle on which the Government Order referred to proceeded. The facts, as ascertained by Government, showed clearly that there had been a grave breach of discipline and open defiance of duly constituted authority on the part of the students attending the Government College. It was, therefore, deemed necessary, as a salutary lesson, to pass in the interests of school discipline instructions for the punishment of all students who took part in the misconduct. Those students who had satisfactory explanations to give, or who on subsequent enquiry were found to have been absent on the day on which the incident occurred, have been readmitted into the college. There was no question of any breach of the provisions of the Penal Code or the constitution of the Samiti mentioned in the question. The Government are not prepared to reopen the enquiry.

26. MEETING OF THE 7TH APRIL 1908.

The Hon'ble Raja VIRABHADRA RAZU Bahadur of Kurupam :—

942. [I] *Question.*—(*a*) Have Government passed orders for the abolition of the police station at Waltair in the Vizagapatam district?

(*b*) If so, will Government be pleased to reconsider their order referred to and issue orders for the retaining of the police station in the place as usual?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—Waltair will cease to be a police station on the introduction of the scheme for the reallocation of the police in the Vizagapatam district. The present station will then be utilized as a beat-house where a section officer and a certain number of men will always be located. This will serve the purpose of the existing police station. The Government at present see no reason to modify the orders already passed in the matter.

The Hon'ble Raja VIRABHADRA RAZU Bahadur of Kurupam :—

943. [II] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to consider the expediency of advising the Municipality of Vizagapatam to appoint a full-time Secretary so as to meet the growing municipal requirements of the town?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—The appointment of a full-time Secretary to the Municipal Council, Vizagapatam, has hitherto been deferred on the representations of the Municipal Council. The Government will call for a further report on the subject.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

944. [III] *Question.*—(i) Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) Whether Mr. J. Andrew has sent his report to the Government regarding the allegations against the officers of the Madras Ophthalmic Hospital referred to in question No. XXIII* asked at the meeting of this Council on the 2nd December 1907? * 906 *supra*, p. 320.

(*b*) What are Mr. Andrew's recommendations in the matter?

(*c*) What action the Government have taken in the matter?

(ii) Will the Government be pleased to lay Mr. Andrew's report on the table?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—(i) Mr. Andrew's report has been received. It completely exonerates Major Elliot from all blame in respect of the charges brought against him, and the Government have accepted this finding. The other questions referred to in the report will be further considered.

(ii) The order of Government on Mr. Andrew's report, so far as it affects Major Elliot, has been placed on the Editors' Table, and a copy will be laid on the table. The Government order summarises all the charges made against Major Elliot together with the findings of the Commissioner on each charge, and contains all that Government consider it advisable to publish at present.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

945. [IV] *Question.*—(i) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the judgment of the District Magistrate of Salem published in the *Indian Patriot* of the 18th March 1908 in the matter of a criminal complaint presented by one Kaveriammal against one William Henry Boyd, a railway traffic inspector, for assaulting her with intent to outrage her modesty when travelling in a railway train on 30th January 1908?

(ii) Will the Government be pleased to present an appeal against the order of acquittal passed by the magistrate in that case ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—The Government called for the records of the case on the 24th March. They were forwarded to the Advocate-General for his opinion whether an appeal should be preferred against the order of acquittal of the accused. The Advocate-General, after a careful examination of the evidence, is of opinion that the judgment of the District Magistrate is right and that there are no good grounds for an appeal. The Government are of the same opinion as the Advocate-General.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

946. [V] *Question.*—(i) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the judgment published in the *Madras Mail* of the 20th March 1908 in the matter of a criminal complaint presented by Rungiah Gownden against Second Lieutenant Watts for mischief and house-breaking ?

(ii) Will the Government be pleased to present an appeal against the order of acquittal in this case ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—The records of the case were called for on the 30th March. After perusing them, the Government will consider whether it is advisable to present an appeal against the acquittal of the accused.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

* 911 supra p. 322.

947. [VI] *Question.*—Adverting to question No. XXVIII* asked at the meeting of this Council on the 2nd December 1907 and the answer of the Hon'ble Mr. Wilson to that question, will the Government be pleased to state whether they have received the further report promised by the Superintending Engineer on the subject of the feeding channel for the Vilattikulam tank and what action the Government have taken on the report ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Wilson :—

Answer.—The report called for has not yet been received.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

948. [VII] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state in what taluks of the Ganjām district famine-relief works have been started, or are proposed to be started, and the number of persons who are receiving relief?

(*b*) The total amount of revenue (1) remitted, (2) suspended up to date ?

(*c*) Whether any reports have been received from the Collectors of other districts regarding the condition of the districts, or of any particular section of the people therein ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—(*a*) One test-work and one poor-house have been opened in each of the following tracts :—(i) a tract comprising five Government villages of the Berhampur taluk and the following zamindari areas—two villages in the

Humma estate, the whole of the Paluru estate with the exception of two villages, the whole of the Biridi estate and the villages of Kallikota estate lying on the verge of the Chilka lake; and (ii) a tract comprising 24 Government villages and two inam villages in Purushottapur.

The test-works were opened in the week ending the 21st March 1908, and the total number employed on them in the succeeding week was 796. The poor-houses were opened in the week ending March 28th. The number relieved at the poor-house in the first tract has not been reported to Government; the number relieved at the poor-house in the second tract was 77. The Collector has reported that the distress is slight and that the resort to test-works and poor-houses is moderate.

(*b*) The Board of Revenue and the Collector have power to order suspensions and remissions of revenue in accordance with Board's Standing Orders Nos. 13 and 14 without reference to Government. The Government have not yet received information as to the amount of revenue supended or remitted.

(*c*) A report is received weekly from every Collector as to the condition of the crops and the state of the agricultural population in his district. During recent months special reports have been called for and received in regard to all districts where the rainfall was to any material extent deficient. These reports do not show that there is any present necessity for opening test-works in any district except Ganjám.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

949. [VIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the Government of India have sanctioned allowances ranging from Rs. 2 to Rs. 3 to Government servants drawing up to Rs. 30 a month on account of dearness of food?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state from what date the said allowances are proposed to be given?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to direct a similar provision to be made for the servants under Local Boards and Municipalities and help the said bodies when their financial condition does not permit the granting of such allowances?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Honourable Member is referred to Resolution No. 1591-Ex., dated 16th March 1908, of the Government of India in the Department of Finance and Commerce, printed in G.O., No. 903, Revenue, dated 30th March 1908, which has been placed on the Editors' Table.

(*b*) Orders are being issued sanctioning the grant of allowances admissible under the Resolution with effect from the 1st of April for a period of six months.

(*c*) Sanction has been accorded, on the application of certain District Boards and Municipal Councils, to the grant of compensation for dearness of food. The question of delegating to Collectors power to sanction within certain limits the grant of compensation to Local Fund and Municipal servants on the application of the local bodies concerned is under consideration, but the Government cannot direct local bodies to make such provision, nor are they prepared to give a general undertaking to contribute towards the cost.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

950. [IX] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the village of Peravaram in the Amalápuram taluk of the Gódávari district, two miles off the Bobbarlanka lock, consisting of about 425 houses, 3,000 inhabitants and paying an annual revenue of Rs. 15,000 to the Government, has been protected by a flood bank both before and after the construction of the Gódávari anicut and the Amalápuram canal and that the bank had been strengthened after the construction of the anicut?

(b) Is it a fact that the protecting flood bank of the said village has been left out of repair for nearly ten years, and that the villagers had represented to the Revenue and the Public Works Department authorities of the state of disrepair of the bank?

(c) Is it a fact that during the recent floods in August last the bund was breached, the village was under water from the 17th August till the 11th September and the villagers were obliged to escape for their lives and live on the canal bank with their cattle during the said period and that notwithstanding the representations of the villagers to the local authorities and the subsidence of the floods no action was taken till the 11th September when an outlet was made for the water by breaching the canal banks?

(d) Is it a fact that 375 houses including tiled houses have fallen down, standing crops had been completely damaged and the villagers been put to considerable loss?

(e) Will the Government be pleased to state why no repairs had been made and why there was delay in making an outlet for the water, if the facts above stated are correct?

(f) Will the Government be pleased to state if any action has been taken towards strengthening the flood bank, and, if not, to immediately direct the repairing of the same so as to protect the village during the next floods?

(g) Will the Government be pleased to state the extent of land damaged by the floods and whether any remissions have been granted on such land or any compensation given to the ryots for the loss sustained by them beyond the postponement of the December and January kists for two months?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—This question was received on the afternoon of Tuesday last, and there has not been time to make such enquiry as would enable a detailed reply to be made to the various questions asked by the Honourable Member. The Government have received a report in the Revenue Department that the village, which, it is understood, is not protected by the flood bank of the river, was inundated in August last, and the action taken by the Government was to suspend two kists. No remission was considered necessary as the land has since been recultivated. A free grant of palmyra trees and leaves was made in all cases which required it.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

951 [X] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to revise the rule about remission on dry lands and empower the District Collector to grant remission on such lands subject to such limitations as to amount as the Government may think fit to impose?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—The answer is in the negative.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

952. [XI] *Question.*—(a) Have the Government received any memorial from the ryots of the Ellore, Bhímavaram, Tanuku, Yernagudem and Narasapur taluks, Kistna district, regarding the scheme of water distribution which has been introduced into their taluks?

(b) Is it a fact that, as stated in the said memorial, pipes of the following dimensions were issued till last year :—

Size.	Maximum area to be commanded.
	ACS.
6 inches	27
9 "	61
12 "	110
15 "	170

and that pipes that are now being introduced are as follow :—

Size.	Maximum area to be commanded.
	ACS.
4 inches	40
6 "	90
9 "	180
1 foot	360 ?

(c) Is it a fact that the water let out through Pippara and other channels branching off from the Undi canal has been in some one-fourth and in others one-third of the supply of the previous year ?

(d) Is it a fact that during the year 1907 water had to be supplied in a very large number of cases where the new pipe system has been introduced by making breaches by the side of the pipe sluices even when the full supply level has been maintained according to the remodelling system ?

(e) Will the Government be pleased to state what action has been taken to enquire into the truth of the statements and complaints made in the memorial, and if no action has been taken, will the Government be pleased to institute enquiries ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Wilson :—

Answer.—A memorial has been received which has been referred to the Superintending Engineer for a full report.

The Hon'ble Mr. Narasimheswara Sarma :—

953. [XII] *Question*- (a) With reference to question No. LIII * put by me at the meeting of the Council held on 2nd December 1907, will the Government be pleased to state whether they have obtained any and what information on the points referred to in parts (e), (h), (j) and (n) of the question; and if no information has been obtained, will they be pleased to call for the same ?

* 936 supra, p. 331.

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state what provision has been made under the new system for the wastage of water admitted to be necessary in answer to part (i) of the said question ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Wilson :—

Answer.—(a) Full reports on the system of distribution of water in the Gódávari district have been called for from the Public Works Department and the Land Revenue officers and are awaited. Government do not think it necessary to delay these by calling specifically for the details asked for by the Honourable Member.

(b) Government are advised that the supply of water provided is sufficient to prevent stagnation.

The Hon'ble Mr. Narasimheswara Sarma :—

954 [XIII] *Question.*—(a) Is it a fact that several villages in the Hospet taluk (Bellary district) on the banks of the Tungabhadra or irrigated thereunder, especially Hosúr, Chittawadigi, Mudlápuram, Narasápuram, Basavandrug, Ippethevaroo, Venkatápuram and Hampi, are being depopulated chiefly owing to the prevalence of malaria ?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to enquire into the causes of the depopulation and introduce remedial measures ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—The Government have no specific information as to the prevalence of malaria in the villages referred to or as to their depopulation. A report will be called for.

In G.O., No. 917 L., dated 2nd of August 1904, all District Boards were instructed to draw up schemes for the suppression of malarial fever as part of the sanitary programmes of their districts.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

955 [XIV] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state the number of income-tax assessees under Part IV on incomes ranging from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 2,000—

(*a*) For the five years immediately prior to the raising of the taxable minimum to Rs. 1,000 and

(*b*) after the minimum had been raised?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—The figures asked for by the Honourable Member are as follow :—

(*a*) Period of five years immediately prior to the raising of the taxable minimum—

	Number of assessees under Part IV.
1898–1899	15,047
1899–1900	16,111
1900–1901	16,563
1901–1902	17,425
1902–1903	18,203

(*b*) Period of four years subsequent to the raising of the minimum—

	Number of assessees under Part IV.
1903–1904	19,751
1904–1905	19,964
1905–1906	19,820
1906–1907	19,766

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

956 [XV] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many elementary schools have been newly opened during the year 1907–1908, and the direct cost of the maintenance of the same? and

(*b*) how many are proposed to be newly opened during 1908–1909?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government have no reliable information as to the number of new elementary schools opened in 1907–1908. In the reply given to question No. XI * asked by the Honourable Member at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 2nd December 1907 it was estimated that 228 new Board schools would be opened during the year. The actual figures will not be available until the annual report for 1907–1908 is compiled.

* 894, supra, p. 316

(*b*) It is impossible at present to form any reliable estimate of the number of elementary schools likely to be opened in 1908–1909.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

957 [XVI] *Question.*—With reference to the answer of the Government to question No. LII (*c*) put by me at the Council meeting held on 2nd December 1907,† will the Government be pleased to state—

† 935, supra, p. 330.

(*a*) whether they have arrived at any definite conclusions on the subject of introducing the elective element into the Taluk Boards?

(*b*) what the conclusions are? and

(*c*) when the elective system is proposed to be introduced?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—The subject is still under consideration.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

958. [XVII] *Question.*—With reference to the answer of the Government to question No. LIV * put by me at the Council meeting, dated 2nd December 1907, will the Government be pleased to state— * 937 supra p. 332.

(*a*) if they have since ascertained the result of the enquiry regarding the circumstances under which the employé of the Madras Railway was said to have been assaulted ?

(*b*) what the result of the enquiry is ? and

(*c*) whether any action has been taken or is proposed to be taken either by the Government or the Railway authorities against the said officer with regard to his conduct which may have been disclosed during the course of the enquiry ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—The Government have made no further inquiries into the matter and do not propose to do so.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

959 [XVIII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) Whether the Municipal Council of Anantapur has requested the Government to sanction a grant from public funds of Rs. 3,500 needed for the repair of the Victoria Memorial dispensary, Anantapur, and the Chairman has submitted a memorial on the subject ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to order an inquiry as to whether the statements therein regarding the state of the building are correct ?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to favourably consider the request of the Municipal Council and sanction the grant of the sum required ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—An application for a grant of Rs. 3,500 to meet the cost of repairs stated to be required to the hospital building, Anantapur, has been received from the Municipal Council, Anantapur. The application was not accompanied by any detailed estimate, and until the receipt of such an estimate, which has been called for, the question of making a grant from Provincial funds towards the cost of executing the work cannot be considered.

An inquiry into the state of the building was ordered on the 27th March.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

960 [XIX] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact, as stated in the *Hindu* of the 25th March, that the Port office, Tuticorin, restrained the Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company from clearing the S.S. *Gallia* on the ground that the rules were not complied with ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state what the rules were which were infringed by the Company necessitating action by the authorities ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) The Honourable Member is referred to section 13 of the Indian Merchant Seamen's Act, 1859 (I of 1859). The steamer had not the full complement of qualified officers.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

961 [XX] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many men were killed and how many wounded in Tinnevelly during the recent riot on the 13th March 1908 ?

(*b*) the places at which the shots were fired, the distances between them, the interval of time between the several shots, the approximate strength of the mob at the place or places where the shots were fired and what the mob was doing at the time?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state the circumstances which immediately and directly led to the orders given by the magistrate to fire on the mob?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson:—

Answer.—(*a*) The number killed is reported to have been four, but the number wounded is not known. Buck shot was used at first.

(*b*) & (*c*) The rioters were fired upon by the police sentry when the police station was attacked. They were again fired upon by the Reserve police, once in the main street leading to the temple, and a second time near the police station. The interval of time between the shots is unknown. The exact number of the mob is unknown but was estimated at several thousands. When the District Magistrate first gave orders to fire, the rioters had set fire to the Post office, Municipal office, Station house, and District Munsif's Court and had attacked the police station and the dispensary. They refused to disperse when repeatedly ordered to do so and, in spite of one shot fired in the air, continued to attack the police and the magistrates, throwing stones from all directions. On the second occasion when the Magistrate gave orders to fire, the rioters were actually engaged in burning the police station and stone-throwing was persisted in. Warning was again given to the crowd before the police fired.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA:—

962. [XXI] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the roots of trees and vegetation freely enter into and choke the pipes which connect the head water-works of Tirupati with the town, and that the Municipality entertains an establishment to remove the noxious growth so as to enable the water to flow freely through the pipes, the men employed having to enter into the manholes daily for the purpose?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to take early steps to remedy the defect?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson:—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer to this part of the question is in the affirmative.

(*b*) A scheme prepared by the Sanitary Engineer for replacing the existing cement pipe main by a steel main has been referred to the Municipal Council for remarks. Provision has been made in this year's budget for increasing the staff of pipe-cleaners as a temporary measure.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA:—

963. [XXII]. *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the Municipality of Bezwada acquired land for the extension of the town and sold it without any ground rent being reserved?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the Government in 1900 directed that ground-rent should be imposed in their favour upon all the lands so acquired, whether such lands had been sold prior to that date or not, and that a sum of Rs. 3,000 is being collected from purchasers of lands which had been sold between 1888 and 1900?

(*c*) Has the District Munsif, Bezwada, declared in O.S. No. 324 of 1906 that the imposition of ground-rent in respect of lands so sold is illegal?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have acquired any lands with their own funds and granted such land to the Municipality or made a grant of money to the Municipality for the extension and improvement of the town?

(*e*) Will the Government be pleased to exempt from the levy of ground-rent lands which have been *bona fide* purchased without any intimation that such rent would be collected?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—(*a*) Land was acquired by the Bezwada Municipality for the extension of the town and part of it has been sold by the Municipality. Government have no information as to the reservations subject to which the land was sold, but liability to land revenue would not be affected by the conditions of such sale.

(*b*) Government have directed that ground-rent should be imposed upon the land with effect from fasli 1315. They have no information as to the amount actually collected.

(*c*) Government have no information as to any such declaration.

(*d*) Government made an advance of Rs. 15,000 for the extension of the Municipality of Bezwada and in addition made a grant to the Municipality of about 140 acres of land which was acquired in exchange for Government land.

(*e*) Government see no reason to reconsider the orders already passed.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

964. [XXIII] *Question*.—(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the fact that there have been frequent changes in the persons holding the office of Personal Assistant to the Surgeon-General, Madras, as many as nearly twelve having held office in the last sixteen years, and that the officers have to learn their work after they are appointed to the office ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to have a reserve of two or three trained men for the office to secure the efficiency and continuity of the administration of the Medical department ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—(*a*) The post of Personal Assistant to the Surgeon-General was created in May 1899. Since that day four officers of the Indian Medical Service have done duty in the appointment.

(*b*) The Government regret that they cannot entertain the proposal.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

965. [XXIV] *Question*.—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state if they have received any memorial from the Assistant Surgeons in their employ praying for the improvement of the pay and prospects of the Civil Assistant Surgeons in general ?

(*b*) What action has been or is proposed to be taken in the matter ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—The answer is in the affirmative. The memorials are under the consideration of Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

966. [XXV] *Question*.—(*a*) Is it a fact that small-pox of a virulent type prevails in several districts of the presidency, that cholera has already made its appearance and that medical aid is not available in many parts of the country ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased (1) to take early steps towards providing medical assistance and improving sanitation, and (2) to state how they propose to utilize the Government of India's grant of 3·50 lakhs towards sanitation ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—(*a*) According to the latest information available as compiled from the daily reports for March 1908 small-pox is severe in one taluk of the Vizagapatam district and in three taluks of Malabar. It does not appear to be of a specially virulent tpye. Cholera is much more severe than is usual

at this time of year both in municipalities and in rural areas: small-pox is considerably less severe as will be seen from the statement placed on the table. The usual medical aid is available. There are, and always must be, parts of the country in which medical aid cannot be provided by Government.

(b) (1) Presidents of District Boards have been authorized generally to employ wherever necessary for temporary duty in connection with cholera any private hospital assistant who may be available locally if the Surgeon-General is unable to depute men from the reserve. The improvement of sanitation is a duty which rests primarily on the Local Boards and Municipal Councils, but the Government continue to make large grants for the provision of medical aid and the improvement of sanitation throughout the presidency.

(b) (2) The grant referred to was communicated to this Government for the first time on the 20th of March. It is obviously impossible that the Government could have yet matured any comprehensive scheme for the expenditure of this sum.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

967. [XXVI] *Question.*—(a) Will the Government be pleased to state if they have sent for the records in the criminal cases against Lieutenant Watts and others disposed of by the District Magistrate of the Nilgiris and the case in which the District Magistrate of Salem has acquitted Mr. Boyd of the Madras Railway accused of outraging the modesty of a Hindu lady travelling in the second class?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to send for the records if they have not already done so and obtain the opinion of the Law officers of the Government on the subject?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to see if departmental action should be taken against the officers concerned?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—(a) & (b) The Honourable Member is referred to the answers given to questions Nos. IV and V.*

(c) This Government have no control over the officers in question.

* 945 and 946 *supra*, p. 338.

The Hon'ble Mr. GURUSWAMI AIYAR :—

968. [XXVII] *Question.*—(a) Is it a fact that the Government of India have been pleased to extend the powers of the Local Government in regard to the grant of grain allowance to the clerks drawing salaries from Rs. 16 to Rs. 30?

(b) In view of the large rise in the prices of food-grains and other commodities, will the Government be pleased to sanction allowances in the case of subordinates drawing salaries from Rs. 16 to Rs. 30?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to question No. VIII.†

† 949 *supra*, p. 339.

The Hon'ble Mr. GURUSWAMI AIYAR :—

969. [XXVIII] *Question.*—Has the attention of Government been drawn to a leaderette which appeared in the *Hindu* of the 27th March 1908 under the heading "Government and low-paid servants"?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—The Government have perused the article.

The Hon'ble Mr. GURUSWAMI AIYAR :—

970. [XXIX] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to sanction increases of pay to clerks in all the City offices receiving salaries below Rs. 30 per mensem?

The Hon'ble Mr. Atkinson :—

Answer.—It has been decided that the minimum pay attached to a clerical post in the Stamp and Stationery office, Sea Customs office, Deputy Collector's office, Court of Small Causes and Government Educational offices in Madras City shall be Rs. 20.

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27. MEETING OF THE 9TH DECEMBER 1908.

The Hon'ble Raja VIRABHADRA RAZU Bahadur of Kurupam :—

971. [I] *Question.*—(*a*) Are Government aware that the village of Pedda Waltair (or Reddika-Waltair as it is otherwise called) and the fishermen's village of Jalaripalem adjoining Waltair are beyond the limits of the Vizagapatam Municipality?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the highly insanitary condition of the said villages has for the last two years resulted in the outbreak of the epidemic of cholera in them during the months of September and October, and their contiguity with Waltair has affected the public health of the latter place especially this year?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to order the inclusion of the two villages into the limits of the Vizagapatam Municipality with a view to improving their sanitary condition and preventing the spread of epidemic diseases in future to Waltair?

The Hon'ble Mr. Weir :—

Answer.—(*a*) Pedda Waltair is situated outside, and Jalaripalem inside, the limits of the Vizagapatam Municipality.

(*b*) There is nothing in the sanitary condition of these villages different from that of other rural villages which contain only thatched huts. The people of Jalaripalem live almost entirely by fishing and have practically no intercourse with the residents of Chinna Waltair, which is situated within municipal limits, and no case can be traced in which infection was carried from Jalaripalem to Chinna Waltair.

In 1907–1908, though there were 18 cases of cholera in Jalaripalem, there was only one case in Chinna Waltair.

In 1906–1907 there were two cases in Pedda Waltair and no cases in Chinna Waltair or in Jalaripalem.

In 1908–1909 the epidemic of cholera was abnormal and all three places were affected.

(*c*) The Government are not prepared to take the initiative for including Pedda Waltair within municipal limits upon the facts before them. The village contains only thatched huts and no proper streets, and lies to the north of the high road which forms a natural boundary on the north side of the municipality. It is for the Municipal Council to make recommendations in the first instance.

The Hon'ble Raja VIRABHADRA RAZU Bahadur of Kurupam :—

972. [II] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that public roads in the Vizagapatam Agency tracts are at present being looked after by Sub-Magistrates?

(*b*) In view of the fact that the Local Boards Act was extended to parts of the said tracts on 1st April 1905 when the present Koraput District Board came into existence, will Government be pleased to order the roads in it to be controlled by the District Board Engineer?

The Hon'ble Mr. Weir :—

Answer.—In those portions of the Agency tracts of Vizagapatam which lie outside the Local Fund area, the maintenance of public roads is being supervised by the Deputy Tahsildars under the control of the Assistant Agents at the cost of Provincial funds. In those portions of the Agency tracts which fall within the local area of the District Board, Vizagapatam,

the work is under the control of the District Board Engineer, except as regards outlying roads in the more feverish localities. The Koraput District Board has no Engineer of its own. Its funds are small and are largely supplemented by grants from Government, and the Board could not afford to pay for a full-time Engineer. Nor do the roads, which are largely earthen fair weather roads, require the special or skilled supervision of an Engineer. The execution of Local Fund works is being supervised by the Deputy Tahsildars, four of whom are at present members of the District Board, under the control of the Revenue Divisional Officer who is also the Vice-President of the District Board. In view of the scattered nature of the communications and the physical features of the country this system is considered to be the most economical and efficacious possible. The system was in force before the extension of the Local Boards Act to this area.

The Hon'ble Raja VIRABHADRA RAZU Bahadur of Kurupam :—

973. [III] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the Government are constructing a bridge over the Nagavalli river at the village of Thotapalli for the convenience of traffic between Parvatípuram and Gunupuram in the Vizagapatam district?

(*b*) Are Government aware of the fact that the bridge will be highly useful for trade passing between Gunupuram and Parvatípuram, which is now much inconvenienced having to cross the Nagavalli and the Gummudu Gedda?

(*c*) In view of the fact that the Vizianagram-Raipur Railway will soon be opened, will Government be pleased to order the completion of the said bridge by that time so as to ensure that mercantile traffic loses no more time in benefiting by the construction of the bridge?

The Hon'ble Mr. Wilson :—

Answer.—The work of constructing a bridge over the Nagavalli river is being pushed on as fast as possible.

The Hon'ble Raja VIRABHADRA RAZU Bahadur of Kurupam :—

974. [IV] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to state the stage which the question of the Vizagapatam harbour has now reached?

The Hon'ble Mr. Weir :—

Answer.—Application has been made to the Secretary of State for the services of an expert.

The Hon'ble Raja VIRABHADRA RAZU Bahadur of Kurupam :—

975. [V] *Question.*—(*a*) Will Government be pleased to state whether the estimates for the extension of the Vizagapatam water-works to the village of Waltair have been completed?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to consider the desirability of making a free gift of the cost of the scheme to the Vizagapatam Municipality?

(*c*) If Government are not prepared to make a free gift of the whole amount, will they be pleased to advance half the estimated amount as a free gift and the other half as a loan to be repaid without interest after the municipality has discharged its present debts?

(*d*) Will Government be further pleased to order the scheme being taken in hand this year?

The Hon'ble Mr. Weir :—

Answer.—(*a*) & (*d*) Estimates amounting approximately to Rs. 52,000 for the extension of the Vizagapatam water-works to Waltair have been prepared by the Sanitary Engineer and are now with the Sanitary Board. The estimates, after the general principles of the scheme have been approved, will require further detailed scrutiny in the Public Works

Department. It is not possible to say at present when final sanction is likely to be accorded to the estimates, but no unnecessary delay will be allowed to occur in the matter. It is not probable that any portion of the scheme can be taken up for execution in the current financial year.

(*b*) & (*c*) The Government will be prepared, after the estimates have been duly sanctioned, to consider, as funds are available, an application from the Municipal Council, Vizagapatam, for a half grant of the estimated cost of the extension; but having regard to the claims of other local bodies, and the necessity for providing funds for other works now under execution, no definite promise can at present be made either as to the amount of the grant or when the contribution, if any, can be made. The Government will also be prepared to consider an application from the Council for the loan of such additional sum as may be necessary for the completion of the work subject to the repayment of the loan with interest at 4 per cent. per annum. No such special reasons exist as would justify the grant of a loan, free of interest, to the Municipal Council of Vizagapatam.

The Hon'ble Raja VIRABHADRA RAZU Bahadur of Kurupam:—

976. [VI] *Question.*—(*a*) Are Government aware that Rámésw aram, the celebrated place of pilgrimage in the Madura district, suffers from periodical outbreaks of cholera?

(*b*) Is it a fact that these outbreaks are due chiefly to the highly insanitary and congested state of Rámésw aram village?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the only sources of water-supply at the place are the exposed wells in the temple there from which people draw their supplies from pots often using dirty cloths instead of ropes?

(*d*) Is it a fact that the matams and lodging-houses in the village are usually overcrowded during the pilgrim season and there are at present no means for cleaning the backyards of these houses which serve as common latrines to the pilgrim families temporarily residing in them?

(*e*) Is it a fact that the present number of public latrines in the village is insufficient and that temporary movable latrines and urinals located at suitable centres during the festival season would conduce to its public health?

(*f*) If the answers to the above questions are in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to consider the desirability of initiating suitable measures for the improvement of the sanitation of the place?

(*g*) In the introduction of such measures will Government be pleased to remember the urgent necessity there exists for protecting all the temple wells from contamination by closing and fitting them up with pumps and sinking fresh wells in different parts of the village and providing them with similar pumps?

(*h*) In view of the congested state of the village, will Government be pleased to order a regular sanitary survey of the place and acquire the lands necessary for widening old and laying out new roads and cutting conservancy lanes for the proper cleansing of backyards and for generally "ventilating" the whole village?

(*i*) In view of preventing the overcrowding of matams and lodging-houses in the place and for maintaining them in a sanitary state, will Government be pleased to consider the desirability of introducing a legislative measure like the Puri Lodging House Act and bringing the same into operation in places like Rámésw aram?

(*j*) In any event, will Government be pleased to see the desirability of improving the sites and buildings for cholera and plague hospitals in the said village?

(*k*) With a view to keeping the place in a thoroughly sanitary state, will Government be pleased to appoint an experienced medical officer with a knowledge of sanitation to the place and entrust the office of Union Chairman to him?

(*l*) If Government cannot immediately find the funds necessary for the purpose of carrying out any measures that they may deem necessary, will they be pleased to ask the Government of India for a grant towards the object seeing that Rámésvaram is visited by pilgrims from all parts of India and not from this presidency only?

The Hon'ble Mr. Weir :—

Answer.—(*a*) *to* (*e*) The Government are aware that frequent outbreaks of cholera occur at Rámésvaram and that the sanitary conditions of that place, both generally and as to water-supply, which is obtained mainly from temple wells, are far from satisfactory. It is not possible to say to what causes the outbreaks of cholera are due, but there is no doubt that the insanitary conditions of the town tend to prolong an outbreak when it occurs.

It is reported that the matams and lodging-houses are periodically overcrowded, that no adequate system of conservancy exists for cleansing the backyards, and that the number of latrines is insufficient.

(*f*), (*g*), (*h*) & (*j*) The town of Rámésvaram has been constituted into a union under the Ramnad Taluk Board. It is primarily the duty of the local bodies concerned to attend to details of sanitation, inclusive of cholera and plague hospitals, in local areas included in their jurisdiction, and the Government, in the current year, have made a special grant of Rs. 18,000 to the District Board of Madura for effecting sanitary improvements in Rámésvaram.

(*i*) The question of legislation in order to provide funds for improving the sanitary condition at important centres of pilgrimage and for preventing the overcrowding of lodging-houses is under the consideration of Government.

(*k*) There is already a medical subordinate attached to the Local Fund dispensary at Rámésvaram. Medical subordinates in rural areas are paid from Local Funds. The Government will be prepared to consider any proposals which the District Board may make for placing at its disposal for employment at Rámésvaram a medical officer of higher grade than at present. Trained Sanitary Inspectors are available if their services are required by the District Board. The appointment to the office of Chairman of a Union Panchayat rests with the President of the District Board.

(*l*) The Government of India have made in 1908–1909 and subsequent years a recurring assignment of Rs. 3½ lakhs to Provincial revenues for the improvement of sanitation. The Government are not therefore prepared to apply to the Government of India for any further grants with special reference to the sanitary requirements of Rámésvaram. Assignments to the District Board of Madura from this special grant will be made with due regard to the financial condition of the District Board and the sanitary needs of other localities. In the current year Rámésvaram has received a considerable allotment from the special grant.

The Hon'ble Mr. Kesava Pillai :—

977. [VII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state whether there is any standard by which a District Forest Officer is guided in fixing compounding fees in forest offences?

The Hon'ble Mr. Wynch :—

Answer.—No standard is or can be laid down in such cases. Each case must be determined on its merits.

The Hon'ble Mr. Kesava Pillai :—

978. [VIII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to place on the table the recommendations of the Hon'ble Mr. Sim, the then Forest Member of the Board of Revenue, for the improvement of the forest administration in the districts of Anantapur and Kurnool in the year 1905?

The Hon'ble Mr. Wynch :—

Answer.—Mr. Sim's reports with the orders of Government thereon are contained in G.O., No. 905, Revenue, dated 17th August 1904, and G.O., No. 959, Revenue, dated 2nd October 1905, which have already been placed on the Editors' Table.

The Hon'ble Mr. Kesava Pillai :—

979. [IX] *Question*.—Are the Government aware that wild pigs infest many parts in the Ceded districts and the ryots complain of destruction of crops and sometimes danger to life? If so, will the Government be pleased to state whether they would take such steps as may ensure the immunity of crops and of life from this pest?

The Hon'ble Mr. Wynch :—

Answer.—Licenses in Form XI under the Arms Act for the destruction of wild animals which do injury to human beings, cattle or crops can be obtained without fee, and the forest authorities are ready to permit beats in cases where it may be necessary to take special measures to rid the jungle of the nuisance complained of.

The Hon'ble Mr. Kesava Pillai :—

980. [X] *Question*.—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether their attention has been drawn to an article in the *Indian Trade Journal* by Mr. E. R. Watson on "The economical value of cow-dung as manure for the land"?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to afford such facilities to the ryot for obtaining firewood as will enable him to make better use of cow-dung as manure instead of as fuel?

The Hon'ble Mr. Wynch :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government have perused the article in question.

(*b*) The Honourable Member will find that one conclusion drawn in the article is that Madras is the only part of India in which firewood is cheaper than cow-dung as fuel. The regular supply of firewood from the forests is a matter which is continuously being considered by the Forest department.

The Hon'ble Mr. Kesava Pillai :—

981. [XI] *Question*.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Board of Revenue collected the arrears due from "Tangedu bark lessees," which had been written off under orders of Government, No. 433, Revenue, dated 8th May 1900?

The Hon'ble Mr. Wynch :—

Answer.—The Government have no information on the subject.

The Hon'ble Mr. Kesava Pillai :—

982. [XII] *Question*.—To encourage non-official members of the Local Boards to take interest in the work and to communicate the knowledge and information to authorities, will the Government be pleased to afford them facilities by supplying them with perforated stamps or extend to them some such concession as is given to the Members of the Legislative Councils?

The Hon'ble Mr. Weir :—

Answer.—The postal charges incurred by local bodies are debited to the Local Fund concerned, and under article 341 of the Indian Postal Guide the correspondence of local bodies is not deemed official correspondence in the sense that service labels can be used for such correspondence. The Local Government have granted no special concession to Members of the

Legislative Council in this respect, such correspondence being conducted under the provisions of Postal rules which are framed by the Government of India. The Government do not propose to take any action in the matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. KESAVA PILLAI :—

983. [XIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Are the Government aware of the large mortality among cattle due to drought and want of fodder in the Bellary district during the last season ?

(*b*) Will Government kindly ascertain the extent of such mortality ?

(*c*) Do the Government propose to take any steps to prevent such mortality by providing special facilities for collection of fodder from the reserved lands ?

(*d*) Are the Government aware that a large number of ryots sold away their cattle at the same time being unable to feed them for want of fodder ?

(*e*) Will Government kindly state or ascertain the steps taken by the district authorities to provide facilities for the collection of fodder by the ryots in the affected areas ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Wynch :—

Answer.—(*a*) The reports of the Collector of Bellary show that there was no exceptional mortality amongst cattle in the Bellary district. In parts of the Bellary and Hospet taluks cattle were reported to have become emaciated for want of fodder, and rinderpest was prevalent in some villages.

(*b*) The Government do not consider any further report on the subject necessary.

(*c*) & (*e*) Loans under the Agriculturists' Loans Act (XII of 1884) were granted for the purchase of fodder, and up to the end of June Rs. 18,235 had been disbursed for the purpose. Free grazing has been permitted in certain reserves in the Hospet and Adóni taluks. The price of forest grass cut and stacked in the Adóni taluk has been reduced.

(*d*) It is reported that cases of the kind occurred in the tract round the town of Bellary.

The Hon'ble Mr. KESAVA PILLAI :—

984. [XIV] *Question.*—(*a*) Are the Government aware that in the District Court of Bellary the Sessions work has so increased as to occupy the Judge nearly three weeks in every month and that the original suits have been accumulating for over four years and the civil appeals over two years ?

(*b*) Are the Government aware that about one-third of the pending suits and appeals relates to mercantile transactions and another third to the agricultural people ?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the public of Bellary have memorialized the Government and the High Court praying for the opening of a Sub-Court to clear the accumulated arrears of original suits and appeals ?

(*d*) Is it a fact that the memorial has been supported both by the District Judge and the High Court ?

(*e*) Will the Government be pleased to state what steps they propose to take to reduce the pendency of suits and appeals ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Weir :—

Answer.—(*a*) There was a slight increase in the number of cases committed to the Sessions Court of Bellary during the year 1907, but the Government are unaware of the number of days spent by the Sessions Judge in each month in trying these cases. The Government are aware that the number of original suits and civil appeals pending has increased.

(*b*) The Government have no information regarding the nature of the pending suits and appeals.

(*c*) & (*d*) No memorial has been received by the Government who are unaware whether a memorial has been presented to the High Court.

(*e*) The Government will carefully consider any memorial or proposals that may be placed before them.

The Hon'ble Mr. KESAVA PILLAI :—

985. [XV] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to extend the concession of the grain compensation allowance to Local Fund employees drawing pay up to Rs. 30 as in the case of civil establishments ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Weir :—

Answer.—The Government have delegated to all Collectors the power to sanction, on the application of the local bodies, compensation for dearness of provisions to all whole-time Local Fund employees in receipt of a salary not exceeding Rs. 16 up to a limit of Re. 1 per mensem in each case. The Government are not prepared to sanction any further concession.

The Hon'ble Mr. KESAVA PILLAI :—

986. [XVI] *Question.*—Is it a fact that the Excise Committee has recommended the raising of the pay of the last grade of Sub-Inspectors of the Salt and Abkári department from Rs. 30 to Rs. 50 ? If so, will the Government be pleased to state whether they intend to give effect to it ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Wynch :—

Answer.—The Committee, while recognising the impossibility of fixing a scale of pay suitable to all provinces, have generally recommended a minimum pay of Rs. 50 for Sub-Inspectors. So far as this presidency is concerned, the Committee have suggested that future revisions of establishments should take the direction of gradually, as occasion offers, augmenting the number of officers in the higher and of reducing those in the lower grades. The suggestion is under consideration.

The Hon'ble Mr. KESAVA PILLAI :—

987. [XVII] *Question.*—Is it a fact that the Sub-Inspectors are not paid mileage or batta for travelling within their ranges ? and is it a fact that no travelling allowances are paid when transferred within the limits of their circles ? If so, will the Government be pleased to state whether they would extend to them the concession of granting travelling allowance as recently sanctioned in the case of Revenue Inspectors ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Wynch :—

Answer.—The pay of Sub-Inspectors was originally fixed so as to compensate them for the cost of ordinary journeys within their jurisdiction. They are, however, entitled to travelling allowance for journeys made by rail or steamer, for forced marches by road under special orders and to actual expenses incurred for crossing at private ferries, within the ranges to which they are attached. For transfers within the circle they are given travelling allowance only for journeys by rail or steamer. The position and pay of a Revenue Inspector differ considerably from that of a Sub-Inspector in the Salt Department, and the Government are not prepared at present to extend the concession of the grant of travelling allowance recently granted to Revenue Inspectors to Sub-Inspectors in the Salt and Abkári department.

The Hon'ble Mr. KESAVA PILLAI :—

988. [XVIII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state, in case of raising the pay of the Sub-Inspectors and granting them travelling allowances, if they would not abolish the reward system for detection of cases ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Wynch :—

Answer.—The question of raising the pay of the Sub-Inspectors and of granting them travelling allowance has not yet been considered by Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

989. [XIX] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have received from the people of South Canara a memorial to be forwarded to the Government of India praying that certain amendments may be made in section 59 of the Transfer of Property Act?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to forward the memorial to the Government of India with a recommendation for its favourable consideration?

The Hon'ble Mr. Weir :—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) The memorial in question has already been forwarded to the Government of India without remarks.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

990. [XX] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have received a copy of a petition submitted by the karnams of the Tanjore district to the Collector of Tanjore praying, for the reasons stated therein, for an increase of salary?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to consider the karnams' petition favourably?

The Hon'ble Mr. Wynch :—

Answer.—(*a*) A copy of the petition has been received by Government.

(*b*) The petition will receive due consideration after being reported upon by the Collector and the Board of Revenue.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

991. [XXI] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that cumpulsory vaccination has been introduced in several villages or amsams in the Malabar district?

(*b*) Have the work and responsibility of Deputy Inspectors of Vaccination and of vaccinators thereby largely increased?

(*c*) Having regard to the conditions of Malabar where houses are scattered unlike as in other districts, is the work of the officers of the Vaccination department in Malabar heavier and more expensive than in other districts?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to order the introduction into Malabar of the reformed scheme relating to the Vaccination Department and referred to in the Government orders summarised in the *Madras Mail* of 12th January 1904?

The Hon'ble Mr. Weir :—

Answer.—(*a*) Compulsory vaccination was at the close of 1907–1908 in force in the Ponnáni union and in 22 amsams and 19 desams in the district of Malabar. It has since the close of the year been extended to the Tangasseri Deputy Tahsildar's division and 55 amsams and 25 desams. The system was first introduced in September 1903 into four amsams of the Chirakkal taluk and was subsequently extended from time to time to other areas on the recommendation of the District Board.

(*b*) The Government do not consider that the work and responsibility of Deputy Inspectors of Vaccination and vaccinators have thereby largely increased. In 1907–1908 the number of successful operations on children under one year in Malabar was only 3·6 per mille of the population against the average of 13·7 per mille for all Local Fund areas in the presidency. The total number of successful operations in the last two years in Malabar have been in 1906–1907, 110,389, and in 1907–1908, 117,190.

(c) The Government have no reason to believe that the work of the vaccination officers is heavier in Malabar than elsewhere. The cost of each successful case in Malabar for 1907–1908 was As. 1–7 against an average of As. 2–4 for the presidency.

(d) The Government are not at present prepared to extend to the Malabar district the trial scheme of vaccination approved in G.O., No. 1005 L., dated 13th September 1905, and now in force in the Chingleput district and in certain portions of the North Arcot, South Arcot and Madura districts.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

* 950 supra, p. 339. **992.** [XXII] *Question.*—(a) With reference to Question IX * put by me at the last meeting, will the Government be pleased to ascertain if the village of Peravaram has been protected by a flood bank both before and after the construction of the Gódávari anicut and the Amálapuram canal and the bank had been strengthened after the construction of the anicut?

(b) If the village has been protected by a flood bank, will the Government be pleased to state if it has been repaired and strengthened after the floods in 1907?

(c) If the village has no protecting bank, will the Government be pleased to direct the execution of works necessary to protect the village from inundation?

The Hon'ble Mr. Wilson :—

Answer.—The question of the construction of a flood bank to protect the Peravaram village is under consideration; but Government do not accept any liability for the protection of individual villages from floods.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

993. [XXIII] *Question.*—(a) Will the Government be pleased to state what extent of land has been thrown out of cultivation (a) in the Kistna district and (b) in the Gudiváda taluk thereof on account of the saline nature of the soil and the precarious supply of irrigation at the ends of delta channels in the tracts bordering on the Kolair lake?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state what steps, if any, they propose to take to improve the soil and irrigation sources of this taluk?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to enquire if any considerable extent of land in the deltaic tract of the presidency has become or is becoming saline in character and investigate the causes thereof with a view to applying remedial measures?

The Hon'ble Mr. Wynch :—

Answer.—(a) The Government have no information, but will call for a report.

(b) The irrigation sources are believed to be, on the whole, in a satisfactory condition, but maps are being prepared which will show the directions, if any, in which improvements may be possible, and these will be taken in hand as time and available funds admit.

(c) The Government do not consider that any special enquiry of the kind contemplated is called for. They are, however, fully aware that the problem of the reclamation of saline soils is one which calls for solution in every district of the presidency and have, in G.O., No. 873, Revenue, dated 27th March 1908, directed that the Director of Agriculture should make further investigation into the subject.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

994. [XXIV] *Question.*—(a) Will the Government be pleased to state why the revenue from penal charges on poramboke cultivation was particularly large in the districts of South Arcot, Tanjore, Trichinopoly, Coimbatore, Guntúr, Kistna and Madura?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state the extent of land in the Gódávari district charged with a penal rate above Rs. 50 per acre and the circumstances under which the rate of Rs. 117 was levied?

The Hon'ble Mr. Wynch :—

Answer.—The Government have no information, but will call for a report.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

995. [XXV] *Question*.—Will the Government be pleased to state the circumstances under which the income-tax collections levied under Part IV rose—

In	From	In	To	In
	RS.		RS.	
Madura	2,40,811	1903–1904	3,36,090 4,39,005	1906–1907 1907–1908
Coimbatore	46,131	1903–1904	68,124	1907–1908
Kistna	1,03,455	1904–1905	1,26,859	1907–1908

The Hon'ble Mr. Wynch :—

Answer.—The increase in collections is attributed to expansion of trade and to more careful enquiries on the part of assessing officers. In Madura the Collector reported that the appointment of a Special Deputy Collector for income-tax work had produced more equitable assessments and improved income-tax administration. The Honourable Member is referred to the Income-tax Administration Report for the triennium ending 1907–1908 (G.O., No. 2865, dated 15th October 1908).

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

996. [XXVI] *Question*.—Having regard to the fact that at the end of fasli 1315 as many as 943 Government tanks and 103 spring channels were out of repair against 1,616 and 159 in repairs in Ganjám, 551 tanks and 22 spring channels against 919 and 64 in Vizagapatam, will the Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken since to improve the irrigation works in the said districts and call for a report as to the present condition of the works?

The Hon'ble Mr. Wynch :—

Answer.—Most of the irrigation sources which are out of repair in the Ganjám and Vizagapatam districts are small and irrigate a few acres only. Rs. 34,809 and Rs. 24,174, respectively, were spent in the Ganjám and Vizagapatam districts during the official year 1907–1908 on the improvement of minor irrigation works, and allotments of Rs. 39,971 and Rs. 22,748 have been made for the same purpose during the current year. The Government do not consider it necessary to call for a special report.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

997. [XXVII] *Question*.—Will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of sending one or more men from each estate under the Court of Wards for training in the Agricultural College, Coimbatore, and the starting of demonstration and experimental farms in the larger estates under the Court's management?

The Hon'ble Mr. Wynch :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to paragraph 11 of the Court of Wards' Administration Report for fasli 1316 reviewed in G.O., No. 768, dated 17th March 1908, from which it will be seen that home-farms have already been opened in seven estates under the management of the Court of Wards and that the question of establishing farms in other estates is under consideration. The suggestion that one or more men from each estate should be sent to the Agricultural College, Coimbatore, for training is one for the Court of Wards to consider.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

998. [XXVIII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state if final orders have been passed on the proposals of the Sanitary Engineer with regard to the replacing of the cement pipe main of the Tirupati water-works by a steel main, and when the work would be undertaken ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Weir :—

Answer.—No final orders have been passed in the matter as yet. The Sanitary Engineer was requested in September last to prepare detailed estimates for replacing the existing cement pipe main by a steel main and for improving the head works as early as possible. The estimates are awaited.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

999. [XXIX] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the number of hospitals and dispensaries maintained or subsidised by the State and of the patients treated therein have decreased in recent years ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the death-rate for the presidency has increased in recent years ?

(*c*) If the answers to the above are in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state what steps they propose to take to improve medical aid in the presidency ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Weir :—

Answer.—(*a*) At the close of 1907, as compared with 1904, there was a slight decrease in the number of medical institutions and a slight increase, viz., 50,000, in the number of patients treated out of a yearly aggregate of over five millions.

(*b*) Government are of opinion that there has been no increase in recent years in the normal death-rate of the presidency.

(*c*) The extension of medical aid and the improvement of sanitation is the constant concern of Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

1000. [XXX] *Question.*—With reference to Question XXIV * put by me at the last meeting with regard to the improvement of the pay and prospects of the Civil Assistant Surgeons, will the Government be pleased to state what conclusions, if any, they have arrived at on the subject ?

* 965 *supra*, p. 346.

The Hon'ble Mr. Weir :—

Answer.—The Government after careful consideration found themselves unable to accede to the requests contained in the memorials of the Assistant Surgeons.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

1001. [XXXI] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state what orders, if any, they have passed on the proposals of the Inspector-General of Prisons for the establishment of a special prison on the Borstal system for youthful offenders ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Weir :—

Answer.—The matter is under the consideration of the Government.

28. MEETING OF THE 7TH JANUARY 1909.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNASWAMI AIYAR :—

1002 [I] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state how many persons residing in the Agency tracts of the Presidency of Madras have, within the last ten years, been placed under personal restraint without any immediate view to ulterior proceedings of a judicial nature ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state the nature and extent of such restraint in each case and under what specific provision of law such a power has been exercised by Government ?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any allowance was fixed for each of the persons under such restraint and paid to him, and if so what ?

(*d*) Has the Agent to the Governor in the districts of Ganjám, Vizagapatam and Gódávari within the last twenty years exercised any power of restraining the liberty of any individual in the Agency tracts without any immediate view to ulterior proceedings of a judicial nature, and if so in how many cases and under what legal authority ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Weir :—

Answer.—The Government regret their inability to furnish to-day the information asked for by the Honourable Member, but hope to do so at the next meeting * of the Legislative Council.

* 1004 infra p. 361.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNASWAMI AIYAR :—

1003 [II] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the resolutions of the All-India Temperance Conference published in the *Madras Mail*, dated the 28th December 1908 ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they intend to institute any enquiries or take any action in connection with the same ?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether a thorough and independent enquiry with reference to the number and location of liquor shops has been made as stated in His Excellency the Governor's speech at the discussion of the Financial Statement for 1908–1909 to have been determined by Government ?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing in what Municipalities and in what local areas such enquiry has been instituted ?

(*e*) Will the Government also be pleased to state the constitution of the Committee appointed in each Municipal area for such enquiry specifying the names of the individuals composing it ?

(*f*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any instructions have been issued limiting the discretion of each Committee as regards the scope of possible reduction in the number of liquor shops ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Wynch :—

Answer.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) The resolutions of the Conference have not yet been received by Government. A thorough enquiry was ordered to be made in G.O., No. 75, dated 10th January 1908, which was placed on the Editors' Table. The report called for in paragraph 6 thereof has not yet been received by Government. The actual number of arrack and toddy shops sold in the current year shows a considerable reduction as compared with the previous year. In Madras Town a thorough enquiry has been made by a Committee consisting of the Collector of Madras (President), the Commissioner of Police and the President of the Madras Corporation assisted by the Commissioners of the Corporation, and a substantial reduction of shops has been ordered.

(*d*) The enquiry has been ordered to be made in all Municipalities. In rural areas the enquiry was ordered to be made by the Collector.

(*e*) (*A*) In the case of Municipalities at the head-quarters of districts and of those having a population of 30,000 and over, the Committee was to consist of—

(1) Collector (President).
(2) District Superintendent of Police.
(3) Chairman of the Municipality.

(*B*) In the case of other Municipalities, the Committee was to consist of—

(1) The Divisional Officer (President).
(2) The Chairman of the Municipality.
(3) The Assistant Superintendent of Police or other local Police Officer to be appointed by the District Superintendent of Police.

In regard to Municipalities included in class (*B*) in which the Divisional Officer was himself the Chairman of the Municipality, a member of the Municipal Council was to be selected by the Council to act with the Divisional Officer and the local Police Officer.

As the reports of the Committees appointed for Municipalities outside Madras Town have not yet reached Government, no information is available regarding the names of the individuals composing the Committees.

(*f*) The instructions issued to the Committees by Government were those contained in the Government of India Resolution No. 5086-Exc., dated 15th August 1907, and paragraph 4 of G.O., No. 75, dated 10th January 1908, which has been placed on the Editors' Table.

29. MEETING OF THE 25TH JANUARY 1909.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNASWAMI AIYAR :—

1004 * [I] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state how many persons residing in the Agency tracts of the Presidency of Madras have, within the last ten years, been placed under personal restraint without any immediate view to ulterior proceedings of a judicial nature?

* Same as 1002 *supra*, p. 359.

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state the nature and extent of such restraint in each case and under what specific provision of law such a power has been exercised by Government?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any allowance was fixed for each of the persons under such restraint and paid to him, and if so what?

(*d*) Has the Agent to the Governor in the districts of Ganjám, Vizagapatam and Gódávari within the last twenty years exercised any power of restraining the liberty of any individual in the Agency tracts without any immediate view to ulterior proceedings of a judicial nature, and if so in how many cases and under what legal authority?

The Hon'ble Mr. Weir :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Agents to the Governor in Vizagapatam and Ganjám have special powers under section 2 of Madras Regulation II of 1819 and under section 7 of India Act No. XXIV of 1839. During the last ten years three warrants have been issued by the Agent to the Governor, Vizagapatam, against three persons: (1) Narayana Sing Lal, (2) Chittapuli Donkapuli and (3) Mohana Santra, *ex*-Diwan of Nowrangpur.

(*b*) In the case of Narayana Sing Lal he has been detained at Vizagapatam under police surveillance since 3rd March 1899. Chittapuli Donkapuli was kept in the Vizagapatam District Jail for a month from 17th July 1906 and for a year thereafter at Chodavaram under police surveillance. He has been since set at liberty. Mohana Santra has been detained at Vizagapatam since 9th March 1907. The only restriction at present placed on his liberty is that he is not allowed to enter the Jeypore zamindari.

(*c*) All these three persons had sufficient private means of their own, and no allowance was therefore paid to them from State funds.

(*d*) During the ten years ending 31st December 1898, fourteen warrants under section 7 of India Act No. XXIV of 1839 were issued by the Agent to the Governor, Ganjám, and ten by the Agent, Vizagapatam.

The Hon'ble Mr. KESAVA PILLAI :—

1005 [II] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the District Forest Officer of Cuddapah has issued a Circular Order, No. 468 of 4th July 1908, to forest guards, watchers and supervisors through the Rangers that they should, without fail, report one case in a week, and they should make mention of the fact of their so having made cases in their diaries, and if they failed to make cases accordingly their pay would not be passed?

(*b*) If it is a fact, will the Government be pleased to state whether they consider it necessary to take any notice of the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. Wynch :—

Answer.—The Government have no information on the point, but will call for a report.

The Hon'ble Mr. KESAVA PILLAI :—

1006 [III] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the Forest Ranger of Proddatur has issued a takeed, No. 241 of 1908, dated 15th July 1908, under grazing fees, that the guards and watchers should each in his beat collect Rs. 1,000 before the 25th August 1908, and if the amount were not so collected, removal from office would be the punishment dealt to them ?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to state if such an order has been issued by other Rangers also in the Cuddapah district; and to state also if such an order has been issued with the cognisance and approval of the District Forest Officer ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Wynch :—

Answer.—The Government have no information on these points, but will call for a report.

The Hon'ble Mr. KESAVA PILLAI :—

1007 [IV] *Question.*—Is it a fact that a District Forest Officer does not, as a rule, make any personal enquiry, nor does he ascertain otherwise the extent of any damages done, before fixing a compounding fee in a forest offence reported to him by his forest guards and watchers through his Rangers ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Wynch :—

Answer.—Personal enquiry in every case by the District Forest Officer would be impossible. The Board have prescribed a form in which the abstract of evidence in each case is placed before the District Forest Officer to enable him to come to a decision in fixing the amount of composition. If in any individual case the Honourable Member has a complaint to make as to the action of any Forest officer in fixing compounding fees, an enquiry will be made.

The Hon'ble Mr. KESAVA PILLAI :—

1008 [V] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether a District Forest Officer is bound to give reasons for fixing a particular sum as a compounding fee in any particular forest offence ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that some District Magistrates have issued instructions to their subordinate Magistrates that fines imposed in forest offences tried by them should be, as a rule, double the compounding fee fixed by the District Forest Officer and never less than the compounding fee ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Wynch :—

Answer.—(*a*) The District Forest Officer is not bound to furnish any person accused of having committed a forest offence with his reasons for fixing a particular sum as a compounding fee. It is always open to an alleged offender who does not choose to pay the fee to take his trial before a Magistrate.

(*b*) The Government have no information in the matter, but will call the attention of District Magistrates to the impropriety of such instructions if such have anywhere been issued.

The Hon'ble Mr. KESAVA PILLAI :—

1009 [VI] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to ascertain, from the Honourable Board of Revenue, the circumstances of the cases referred to in my Question No. XI * in this Council on the 9th of December last ?

* 981 *supra*, p. 352.

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of suits, instituted against Government by parties affected, in the District Munsif's Court of Penukonda, consequent on the collection of arrears due, which had been written off under orders of Government, No. 433, Revenue, dated 8th May 1900, and the result of such suits ?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to furnish a statement of costs incurred by Government in defending those suits ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Wynch :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government have seen a judgment of the District Munsif, Penukonda, from which it appears that, although the Board had recommended the writing-off of certain irrecoverable arrears due by a Tangedu contractor, it was subsequently reported that the arrears were recoverable and had been reported to be irrecoverable owing to a fraudulent representation on the part of the defaulter. The District Munsif has dismissed the defaulter's suit against the Secretary of State and others with costs. The writing-off of arrears is of course a mere matter of account and does not affect the legal liability of the defaulter.

(*b*) *&* (*c*) The Government have no information on these points.

The Hon'ble Mr. Kesava Pillai :—

1010 [VII] *Question*.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether they propose to exercise the powers reserved to the Local Governments by clause 61 of the Code of Civil Procedure (Act V of 1908) and, if so, when ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Wynch :—

Answer.—The question of declaring any portion or class of agricultural produce exempt from liability to attachment or sale in execution of a decree has not as yet received the consideration of the Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. Kesava Pillai :—

1011 [VIII] *Question*.—Will the Government be pleased to state if they have taken any action on the letter of the Hon'ble Mr. D. M. Hamilton, dated 9th October 1905, recommending certain experiments in the establishment of dharmagolas or grain banks in villages and offering, if the Government would try the experiment, to start a number of such banks ; and if no action has been taken in view of the indigent circumstances of small pattadars and other ryots in the Ceded districts, will the Government be pleased to take some early steps in this direction ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Wynch :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to the correspondence printed in G.O., No. 487, Revenue, dated 1st June 1906, which has been placed on the Editors' Table. No grain banks have so far been started in this Presidency.

The Hon'ble Mr. Kesava Pillai :—

1012 [IX] *Question*.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether they would favourably consider the question of paying batta to the Deputy Tahsildars who are also Magistrates, in view of the revenue work imposed on them and the duty of travelling which such work entails ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Wynch :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to the answer to Question No. XXI * asked by the Hon'ble Mr. M. Krishnan Nayar at the Legislative Council meeting held on 21st March 1905. * 615 *supra*, p. 215.

The Hon'ble Mr. Kesava Pillai :—

1013 [X] *Question*.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether separate orders have been issued in regard to the conduct of, and in connection with the constitution and the duties of, the subordinate staff as promised in paragraph 7 of G.O., No. 245, dated 21st March 1908, on the Hon'ble Mr. J. Andrew's report, in his enquiry regarding the administration of the Government Ophthalmic Hospital, Madras ; and, if so, will the Government be pleased to place it on the table ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Weir :—

Answer.—An increase of the subordinate staff of the Ophthalmic Hospital, including a nursing establishment, was sanctioned by Government in July 1908. The papers connected with Mr. Andrew's inquiry were forwarded to the Surgeon-General, who was requested to submit any recommendations he might desire to make. In reply he stated that he did not consider any changes in either personnel or administration advisable. He recommended that the tenure of the appointment of Assistant Surgeon should be limited to two years, but on this point he was informed that he had power to arrange the matter himself. The Government did not consider it necessary to issue any further orders regarding the conduct of the subordinate staff.

The Hon'ble Mr. Kesava Pillai :—

1014 [XI] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Director of Public Instruction issued instructions to the Presidents of Local Boards and Municipalities to dispense with the services of supervisors of primary education from March next?

(*b*) What is the number of such supervisors who will be thrown out of employment by the notification?

(*c*) What is the number of supervisors who will be re-entertained on the provincialization of the service, and what would be the probable number of them who would not find re-employment in the service?

(*d*) How do the Government propose to compensate for the loss of service?

The Hon'ble Mr. Weir :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Director of Public Instruction intimated to Presidents of District Boards and Chairmen of Municipal Councils the advisability of their giving supervisors notice that their services would not be required after the end of February.

(*b*) & (*c*) No definite answer can be given at present to these questions. Those supervisors who are Government servants lent to local bodies will revert to Government service, and it is hoped that a considerable proportion of the rest will be found qualified for appointment as supervisors under Government.

(*d*) The cases of persons who are thrown out of employment will be considered on their merits. Where pension or gratuity is permissible under the rules, it will doubtless be given, but it is impossible to make any general statement on the subject.

The Hon'ble Mr. Kesava Pillai :—

1015 [XII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table all the papers relating to the recent revision of the "normal, warning and scarcity rates" of staple food-grains for the several districts of the Presidency?

The Hon'ble Mr. Wynch :—

Answer.—The Government do not consider that any useful purpose would be served by placing the papers on the table.

The Hon'ble Mr. Kesava Pillai :—

1016 [XIII] *Question.*—In view of the scarcity prices of food-stuffs prevailing still, will the Government be pleased to extend to a further period the grant of grain compensation allowance to their menials and other subordinate officials drawing pay up to Rs. 30?

The Hon'ble Mr. Weir :—

Answer.—The grant of compensation for dearness of food to all whole-time servants of Government on civil establishments whose pay does not exceed Rs. 30 *per mensem* has been continued up to the end of March 1909 in all districts of the Presidency.

The Hon'ble Mr. KESAVA PILLAI :—

1017 [XIV] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that clerks in the several public offices in the City of Madras have submitted memorials to Government praying for the sanction of a local allowance?

(*b*) If so, in consideration of the enormously high cost of living and the ever-increasing house-rents obtaining in the city, will the Government be pleased to afford adequate relief to the memorialists in question by sanctioning suitable allowances?

The Hon'ble Mr. Weir :—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) The memorials are under the consideration of Government.

The Hon'ble Raja VASUDEVA RAJA Valia Nambidi of Kollengode :—

1018 [XV] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a paragraph in the *Malabar Daily News* of the 5th January 1909 under "Editorial Comments" and a correspondence in the *Hindu* of the 4th January 1909 under the heading "The South Indian Railway" relating to the irregularity and unpunctuality in their train services and the inconvenience and trouble caused to passengers thereby?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to call for a return showing on what days during the last two months the mail trains ran out of time and see whether the loud complaints against the South Indian Railway are not well-grounded?

(*c*) If they are well-grounded, will the Government be pleased to take such steps as may be feasible to prevent the inconvenience to the travelling public?

The Hon'ble Mr. Wilson :—

Answer.—(*a*) Government are aware that there has been unpunctuality in the train service on the South Indian Railway.

(*b*) A return has been called for from both the South Indian and the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railways showing on what days during the last two months the mail trains ran late and whether the unpunctuality complained of was caused by detentions at stations on the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway section or on the South Indian Railway section.

(*c*) Sufficient time has not been afforded for the preparation of this return, but on receipt of the information called for, the Agents will be addressed.

The Hon'ble Raja VASUDEVA RAJA Valia Nambidi of Kollengode :—

1019 [XVI] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it the intention of Government, that Board and Municipal school-rooms should not be used for religious lectures or religious studies even out of school-hours, and that Board and Municipal teachers should not hold in them voluntary classes in religion before or after school-hours?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to remove the prohibition imposed on the Victoria College, Palghat, by the Proceedings of the Director of Public Instruction, Dis. No. 548, dated 27th January 1905, in which he says "the teachers in a "school under public management are not at liberty to give religious instruction of "any kind during school-hours, nor is it desirable that the building be used for such "purposes at any time"?

The Hon'ble Mr. Weir :—

Answer.—Religious instruction cannot be permitted to be given during school-hours, and owing to the numerous religious sects represented by the pupils attending a school open to all classes it would generally be impracticable to arrange for the use of the building out of school-hours for instruction in diverse religious systems.

30. MEETING OF THE 5TH APRIL 1909.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNASWAMI AIYAR :—

1020 [I] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether in any of the cases referred to in their answer, dated 25th January 1909, to interpellation No. I *, the person under restraint was asked whether he was willing to accept any allowance for his support and if so whether he declined to do so?

* 1004 *supra*, p. 361.

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether legal advice was taken as to whether the possession of private means by the person under restraint is a ground for withholding allowance under Regulation II of 1819 and India Act XXIV of 1839?

(*c*) Whether the Government are aware that, in the case of persons placed under restraint in other parts of India like Mr. Lala Lajput Rai, allowances were fixed and paid to them notwithstanding the possession of ample means of their own?

The Hon'ble Mr. Weir :—

Answer.—(*a*) Whether any formal question was put to the detenu as to his willingness to accept an allowance is not known. Any such formality is unnecessary as the Agent makes enquiries as to the necessity of an allowance, and if the private means of the detenu are insufficient an allowance is assigned. Both Narayana Sing Lal and Mohana Santra were reported to be men of means who required no State grant. Chittapuli Donkapuli, it has been ascertained, received a daily allowance from the Government while he was under detention in jail.

(*b*) The Government cannot undertake to state on what advice they proceed.

(*c*) The Government have no information.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

1021 [II] *Question.*—(1) Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) The number of Sanskrit schools in the Presidency and the number of pupils studying in them?

(*b*) The number of Inspectors existing at present for inspecting these schools, and whether these Inspectors inspect all these schools every year?

(*c*) How many of these schools receive grants from the Government, and the number of pupils studying in the schools that receive such grants?

(*d*) Whether any and which of these schools receive grants of Rs. 1,000 or more, the number of pupils studying in such schools, the period for which such schools have been in existence, and the castes of the boys studying in these schools?

(*e*) The number of Sanskrit schools maintained by the Local Boards, the number of pupils studying in them, and the total annual expenditure on these schools?

(*f*) The number of Sanskrit schools in Malabar, the number of pupils attending them, the number of these schools that receive grants, the total amount of such grants, and the number of pupils studying in the schools that receive such grants?

(*g*) The number of Sanskrit schools in Malabar which have been in existence for a period of twenty years or more?

(2) Will the Government be pleased to appoint more Inspectors for the inspection of the Sanskrit schools, and increase the amount of grant to these schools?

The Hon'ble Mr. Weir :—

Answer.—(1) (*a*) There are 262 Sanskrit schools in the Presidency with 4,825 pupils.

(b) There is one inspecting officer whose special duty it is to inspect these schools and to render them what assistance he can. He does not visit them all each year.

(c) Twenty-six of these schools receive monetary aid from Provincial funds. The number of pupils studying in schools thus aided is 751.

(d) One of these schools, viz., the "Madras Sanskrit College and Swaminatha Sastrial Vedanta Pathasala", receives an annual grant of Rs. 1,000; there are 27 pupils; the institution has been in existence a little over three years; all the pupils belong to the Brahman caste.

(e) The Local Boards maintain five Sanskrit schools with 187 pupils at an annual cost of about Rs. 3,700.

(f) There are 33 Sanskrit schools in Malabar with 997 pupils; 10 of these schools with 301 pupils receive grants amounting to Rs. 650.

(g) One of the Sanskrit schools in Malabar is believed to have been in existence for nearly twenty years.

(2) The Government see no necessity at present for the appointment of more inspecting officers for Sanskrit schools. The question of increasing the grants to these schools is engaging the attention of the Director of Public Instruction.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

1022 [III] *Question.*—(a) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of cattle deaths in Malabar in the year 1908–1909?

(b) Adverting to paragraph 194 of the memorandum which accompanied the Financial Statement for the year 1908–1909, will the Government be pleased to state—

(1) The number of selected stations out of the eighty-two stations mentioned in the said paragraph where veterinary dispensaries have been established, and the names of these stations?

(2) The number of Veterinary Inspectors out of the fifteen Inspectors and the number of Veterinary Assistants out of the one hundred and thirty-two Assistants referred to in the said paragraph that have been appointed up to this date?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to bring into operation the full scheme referred to in the said paragraph as early as possible?

The Hon'ble Mr. Wynch :—

Answer.—(a) The statement of cattle mortality in Malabar for the official year 1908-1909 is not yet available. The total number of deaths caused by disease and wild animals during the calendar year 1908 was 10,567.

(b) (1) Of the 82 stations mentioned in paragraph 194 of last year's Financial Statement, veterinary dispensaries have been established in the thirteen places of Saidapet, Vellore, Madura, Trichinopoly, Coimbatore, Vizagapatam, Bellary, Rajahmundry, Ellore, Ongole, Tiruvannámalai, Cocanada and Tanjore.

(2) Of the sanctioned staff of the Veterinary department two Veterinary Inspectors and 46 Veterinary Assistants have been appointed. This number includes 18 Veterinary Assistants appointed this year out of the 24 students who passed the final examination of the Veterinary College held in December last.

(c) The full scheme will be brought into operation as early as possible, but this can only be done as the staff required is supplied by the Veterinary College.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

1023 [IV] *Question.*—(a) Is it a fact that Hospital Assistants employed in Wynaad get as hill allowance only a fixed amount of Rs. 15 per mensem irrespective of their grade, while other Government servants receive an allowance of 50 per cent. of their pay?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to extend the concession allowed to other Government servants in Wynaad to Hospital Assistants also ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Weir :—

Answer.—The Hospital Assistants now serving in the Wynaad draw in addition to their grade pay a charge allowance of Rs. 10 and a local allowance of Rs. 15 per mensem, or Rs. 25 per mensem in all. The Government of India have ruled that Rs. 25 per mensem is the maximum which can be granted to a Hospital Assistant by way of special allowances.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

1024 [V] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the Hospital Assistants serving on the Nilgiris are not given any hill allowance except a warm clothing allowance of Rs. 5 per mensem, while other public servants employed there are allowed hill allowance of Rs. 10 and upwards ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to grant hill allowance to Hospital Assistants also in the Nilgiris ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Weir :—

Answer.—(*a*) All Hospital Assistants serving in the Nilgiris except three draw local allowances. These allowances are in some cases in addition to the warm clothing allowance of Rs. 5.

(*b*) The question of the allowances paid to Hospital Assistants serving in the Nilgiris is under the consideration of the Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

1025 [VI] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that for the purpose of profession-tax payable to Municipalities, Hospital Assistants are classed as persons whose minimum income is estimated at Rs. 200 ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that for the same purpose Assistant Surgeons and Civil Apothecaries are also classed as persons whose minimum income is estimated at Rs. 200 per month ?

(*c*) Is the scale of fees given below the sanctioned scale for the medical practitioners therein mentioned ?—

—	Hospital Assistants.	Assistant Surgeons and Civil Apothecaries.	
		In the larger towns.	In the smaller towns.
	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
For an ordinary visit—			
By day	0 8 0	2 0 0	1 0 0
By night	1 0 0	3 0 0	2 0 0
For a confinement or severe operation including the subsequent necessary visits.	5 0 0	30 0 0	15 0 0

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to sanction a higher scale of fees for Hospital Assistants ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Weir :—

Answer.—(*a*) & (*b*) The Honourable Member is referred to the Act. Under proviso 3 to schedule A, no practising medical practitioner, other than a hakim or vaidyan, can, for the purpose of profession-tax, be placed below class VI.

(*c*) The scale given in the question is the sanctioned scale.

(*d*) The Government do not think it necessary at present to revise the scale.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

1026 [VII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the number of persons killed by wild animals rose from 299 in 1905 to 320 in 1906 and 364 in 1907?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the number of persons killed by tigers in 1907 was 121 in Vizagapatam and 63 in Ganjám?

(*c*) Is the number of cattle killed in 1907, 5,514 in South Canara and 2,493 in Malabar?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of persons holding licenses to use fire-arms during the years 1905, 1906 and 1907 in the districts of Ganjám, Vizagapatam, South Canara and Malabar?

(*e*) Will the Government be pleased to take special steps to reduce the mortality from wild animals and the destruction of crops caused by them?

The Hon'ble Mr. Weir :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Honourable Member is referred to G.O., No. 2088, Revenue, dated 31st July 1908. The correct figures are 299 in 1905, 279 in 1906 and 295 in 1907.

(*b*) & (*c*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*d*) The number of licenses to use fire-arms issued in the four districts specified during the years 1905, 1906 and 1907 were—

Ganjám,	in 1905, 833;	in 1906, 830;	and in 1907, 796.
Vizagapatam,	in 1905, 1,087;	in 1906, 999;	and in 1907, 915.
South Canara,	in 1905, 4,888;	in 1906, 4,430;	and in 1907, 3,838.
Malabar,	in 1905, 7,842;	in 1906, 7,434;	and in 1907, 7,236.

The Government have no information regarding the exact number of persons who held licenses to use fire-arms as one license may cover more arms than one.

(*e*) Licenses in form XI under the Arms Act for the destruction of wild animals which do injury to human beings, cattle or crops can be obtained without fee, and the Forest authorities are ready to permit beats in cases where it may be necessary. The Government do not consider that any necessity for other measures has been shown.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

1027 [VIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state what orders, if any, have been passed on the report submitted by the Committee appointed to enquire into the question of the distribution of water in the Gódávari delta?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state what the recommendations of the Committee are?

The Hon'ble Mr. Wilson :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government have not yet passed final orders on the Committee's report which has been sent to the local officers of the Revenue and Public Works Departments for remarks. In the meanwhile orders have been issued to prevent as far as possible a recurrence of the inconveniences complained of last year.

(*b*) The question of publishing the Committee's recommendations will be considered when final orders are passed on the report.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

1028 [IX] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to take into favourable consideration the recommendation of the Industrial Conference, Ootacamund, that the water assessment should be reduced in cases where oil-engine pumping is done by private enterprise from river banks to irrigate lands not irrigable from an anicut?

The Hon'ble Mr. Wynch :—

Answer.—Government will consider the matter when application is made for concessions in any particular case that may arise but can give no general assurance.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

1029 [X] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) What industrial institutions are proposed to be placed under the Director of Industries ?

(*b*) What, if any, recommendations have been made by the Director with regard to the constitution, the function and curriculum of such institutions ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Wynch :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Director of Public Instruction has submitted a list of 36 industrial institutions which might be placed under the Director of Industries. Government have not yet passed final orders in the matter.

(*b*) The constitution, function and curriculum of these institutions vary considerably, and if it is finally decided to place these institutions under the control of the Director of Industries, he will not be in a position to submit specific recommendations concerning them till they have been under his control for some time.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

1030 [XI] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the well-boring operations which have been conducted in the Chingleput district have not been begun in any part of the Circars and that oil-engine irrigation has not made any progress in the northern districts of the Presidency ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to depute a special staff to investigate the subterranean water-supply of the said districts, that oil-engine irrigation may be introduced and encouraged therein ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Wynch :—

Answer.—(*a*) No well-boring operations have been begun in the Circars. During the year 1906–1907 four pumping installations were put down in the Gódávari district and two in the Kistna district. In 1907–1908, two installations were put down in the Kistna district.

(*b*) The Government consider it desirable that the boring operations should be extended to other districts at an early date and, in order to make this possible, have recently sanctioned the employment of additional Upper Subordinates and boring maistries. As soon as these men have received sufficient training, boring operations will be begun in the northern districts of the Presidency.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

1031 [XII] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any reports have been received from Collectors regarding the prevalence of distress owing to a failure of crops or high prices in any district or portions of districts in the Presidency ?

(*b*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to a letter in the *Indian Patriot*, dated 15th January 1909, under the heading "Torchlight dacoity—Sensational details" in which it has been stated that several people in the Ceded districts are living upon devadari leaves and roots of aloes ?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to investigate whether famine conditions prevail in any portion of the said districts and the statements in the letter are true ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Wynch :—

Answer.—(*a*) Remission and suspension of revenue to a considerable amount have been granted in the Bellary and Anantapur districts on account of the failure of dry crops. But the reports from the District officers received hitherto do not indicate that distress is prevalent in any part of the Presidency.

(*b*) & (*c*) The attention of the Government has been drawn to the letter regarding which a report has been called for from the Collector of Cuddapah. He reports that the statement that people were living upon devadari leaves and roots of aloes was only true of some of the poorest classes for a short period previous to the rains in September last. The state of the district has improved materially since then and the labouring classes have no difficulty in obtaining work.

The Hon'ble Mr. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

1032 [XIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state if the Surgeon-General has recommended the reorganization of the Hospital Assistant school and the introduction of an improved curriculum of studies therein, and whether any action is proposed to be taken in the matter ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to consider whether a chair for the teaching of the Ayurvedic system of medicine cannot with advantage be established in the Madras Medical College ?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to take steps for improving the prospects of the Hospital Assistants ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Weir :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Surgeon-General has made certain proposals for improving the training of Hospital Assistants and these are now under the consideration of Government.

(*b*) The Government are not prepared to take any steps in the direction mentioned.

(*c*) The scale of pay for Hospital Assistants in direct Government employ has been fixed by the Government of India and is the same for all provinces.

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNASWAMI AIYAR :—

1033 [XIV] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to furnish a statement showing the progress of survey operations in the Madras Presidency and indicating when the Government expects survey operations to be finished ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state the average annual cost of the Survey department, and to what extent it may be expected to be reduced when the survey operations are finished ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Wynch :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Honourable Member is referred to G.O., No. 2620, dated 17th September 1908, reviewing the administration report of the Survey department for the year 1907–1908, in which the progress of survey operations in this presidency up to 30th June 1908 is given. The Director of Survey has submitted a revised programme for the work remaining to be done, which is at present under the consideration of Government. It will be laid on the Editors' table as soon as it has been approved by Government.

(*b*) The average annual cost of the Survey department for the five years ending with 1907–1908 was Rs. 6,43,161. The Government cannot at present estimate with any degree of accuracy to what extent it will be possible to reduce the department when the present survey operations are completed.

The Hon'ble Mr. KESAVA PILLAI :—

1034 [XIV] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the reports promised to be called for, in answer to my Questions Nos. II and III * at the last Council meeting, have been received ?

* 1005 and 1006 *supra*, pp. 361 & 362.

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to answer the said questions ?

"II. (*a*) Is it a fact that the District Forest Officer of Cuddapah has issued a Circular Order, No. 468 of 4th July 1908, to forest guards, watchers and supervisors through the Rangers that they should, without fail, report one case in a week, and they should make mention of the fact of their so having made cases in their diaries, and if they failed to make cases accordingly their pay would not be passed ?

(*b*) If it is a fact, will the Government be pleased to state whether they consider it necessary to take any notice of the matter ?

"III. (*a*) Is it a fact that the Forest Ranger of Proddatur has issued a takeed, No. 241 of 1908, dated 15th July 1908, under grazing fees, that the guards and watchers should each in his beat collect Rs. 1,000 before the 25th August 1908, and if the amount were not so collected, removal from office would be the punishment dealt to them ?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to state if such an order has been issued by other Rangers also in the Cuddapah district; and to state also if such an order has been issued with the cognisance and approval of the District Forest Officer ? "

The Hon'ble Mr. Wynch :—

Answer.—The Government have now received the reports called for. The answers to Questions Nos. II and III † asked at the last meeting are as follows :—

† *ibid.*

II. (*a*) A circular similar in terms to those mentioned in the question was issued by the late District Forest Officer, North Cuddapah division, Saiyid Burhan-ud-din Sahib Bahadur, though it did not direct specifically that so many cases should be reported each week. It is reported that the circular was issued as the District Forest Officer was satisfied that illicit felling was rife in the division. As a matter of fact the pay of no subordinate was withheld in pursuance of the circular.

II. (*b*) The District Forest Officer has been directed to withdraw the circular at once if this has not already been done.

III. (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

III. (*b*) The order was issued without the knowledge of the District Forest Officer. Similar orders do not appear to have been issued by other Range officers in the Cuddapah district. The conduct of the Range officer is under enquiry.

The Hon'ble Mr. KESAVA PILLAI :—

1035 [XVI] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state if necessary action had been taken as recommended in paragraph 21 of the Resolution of the Board of Revenue embodied in G.O., No. 905, Revenue, of 1905, made after personal inspection by the Forest Member, the Hon'ble Mr. H. A. Sim, I.C.S., with regard to the widening of roadways in the forest reserves therein mentioned ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Wynch :—

Answer.—The question of permitting the use of wider roadways was left to the discretion of the Collector to deal with as liberally as he thought necessary. The Government do not think it necessary to call for reports on the matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. KESAVA PILLAI :—

1036 [XVII] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the District Forest Officer of Guntúr fixed the compounding fee at Rs. 3,200 (three thousand and two hundred) in case No. 67/1905–1906 of Guntúr range for the offence of illicit browsing of 800 goats and sheep at 4 rupees per head ?

(*b*) And if so, will the Government be pleased to state if the Forest officer had given any idea of the damage caused by the goats and sheep, to the satisfaction of the authorities above him, to justify the fixing of the compounding fee at a rate far higher than the maximum value of the goats and sheep ?

(c) And will the Government be pleased to state if the District Forest Officer made any enquiry in the matter before estimating the damage and fixing the compounding fee; and, if so, will the Government be pleased to state the nature of the enquiry made and the evidence obtained by the District officer in the case?

The Hon'ble Mr. Wynch :—

Answer.—The Government have no information but will call for a report.

The Hon'ble Mr. Kesava Pillai :—

1037 [XVIII] *Question.*—(a) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of indentured Indians (males and females) that went from this presidency to Natal during the last ten years?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state if they have information as to the nature of work these indentured Indians (males and females) have to do, the number of hours they have to labour every day and the wages they receive?

(c) If so, will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement containing the above information?

The Hon'ble Mr. Weir :—

Answer.—(a) The number of male indentured Indians who emigrated to Natal from the Madras Presidency during each of the ten years 1898 to 1907 was 2,760, 159, 3,729, 4,492, 2,784, 1,772, 4,410, 4,426, 5,443 and 4,049, respectively; and the number of females was 1,323, 46, 1,763, 2,084, 1,310, 772, 1,977, 2,072, 2,551 and 1,914, respectively.

(b) & (c) The Government have no very definite information, but it appears from the latest report of the Protector of Indian Immigrants, Natal, that indentured Indians in Natal are employed on coal mines, tea and sugar estates and as farm labourers and also by public bodies. Under the Indian Immigration Law, 1891, immigrants are bound in the absence of an express agreement to the contrary to work for nine hours each day except Sundays, Good Friday, Christmas day and New Year's day and other days which must be observed as holidays or religious festivals under Regulations made by the Government of Natal. It is also provided that the assignment of females and younger persons shall be only for such lighter varieties of labour as such female immigrants and the younger persons are fitted for. The money wages for adult males during the first period of indenture are 10*s.* rising to 14*s.* a month and for women from 5*s.* rising to 7*s.* a month, but immigrants are also provided with food, lodgings, medical attendance and medicine free of charge. During the second period of indenture it is provided by law (Act XVII of 1895) that the wages of an Indian immigrant shall not be less than 16*s.* a month for the first year, 17*s.* for the second, 18*s.* for the third, 19*s.* for the fourth and 20*s.* for the fifth and each succeeding year. Every Indian desiring to return to India on the expiry of his first or any subsequent period of indenture is entitled to be provided by the Indian Immigration Trust Board with a free passage to India.

The Hon'ble Mr. Kesava Pillai :—

1038 [XIX] *Question.*—(a) Will the Government be pleased to state if they obtain regular reports regarding the condition of the indentured Indians in Natal and regarding the treatment they receive at the hands of their employers in the colony?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to issue a statement on the subject?

The Hon'ble Mr. Weir :—

Answer.—The Government receive annual reports on Indian immigrants in Natal, which include information regarding their treatment by their employers. These reports are published in Natal and are sold to the public, the price of the last report being one shilling and nine pence. The

Government also receive reports from the Protector of Emigrants, Madras, every time a vessel arrives with returning emigrants. The Protector on each occasion questions the returning emigrants on their treatment in the colony and on board.

The Hon'ble Mr. KESAVA PILLAI :—

1039 [XX] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of Indians that have returned from the said Colony of Natal during the last ten years?

The Hon'ble Mr. Weir :—

Answer.—The number of Indians that have returned from Natal in each of the last ten years from 1898 are 320, 380, 288, 371, 857, 1,329, 1,104, 1,569, 2,386 and 2,421, respectively.

The Hon'ble Mr. KESAVA PILLAI :—

1040 [XXI] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table copies of the following orders of Government?—

G.O., No. 1077, Revenue, dated 18th December 1893.
" " 306 " " 2nd July 1896.
" " 763 " " 31st December 1896.
" " 696 " " 5th August 1902.

The Hon'ble Mr. Wynch :—

Answer.—The first three orders have already been placed on the Editors' Table. The Government will be pleased to supply the Honourable Member with copies of all four orders if he desires them.

The Hon'ble Mr. KESAVA PILLAI :—

1041 [XXII] *Question.*—(*a*) In view of the fact that the temporary grant of grain compensation allowance to subordinate officials drawing pay up to Rs. 30 per mensem expires by the end of March 1909, and in view of the high prices of food-grains and other necessaries of life, as compared with those of thirty years ago, will the Government be pleased to improve the pay and prospects of subordinate officials by revising the old scales of pay?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to sanction increases of pay to attenders, muchis, peons and other menials in the Government employ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Weir :—

Answer.—The Government have on several occasions during the last thirty years improved the pay and prospects of subordinate officials and menials by revising the scale of pay, and they constantly revise the scale of pay in particular offices when the necessity for the same is established.

The Hon'ble Mr. KESAVA PILLAI :—

1042 [XXIII] *Question.*—With reference to the answer given to my Question No. XIV (*b*) * at the last Council meeting, will the Government be pleased to state whether orders have been issued on the memorials submitted by clerks in the several public offices in the City of Madras praying for the grant of adequate local allowances in view of the exorbitant rates of house-rent obtaining in the metropolis?

* 1017 *supra*, p. 365.

The Hon'ble Mr. KESAVA PILLAI :—

1043 [XXIV] *Question.*—In case the Government have passed orders on the above-mentioned memorials, will the Government be pleased to state whether the case of menials also has received consideration at the hands of Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. Weir :—

1042 & 1043 *Answer.*—The Government have not yet passed orders on the memorials.

31. MEETING OF THE 9TH NOVEMBER 1909.

The Hon'ble Raja VASUDEVA RAJA Valia Nambidi of Kollengode :—

1044 [I] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to furnish a statement showing the reduction in the number of shops for the sale of toddy and arrack in each Municipal and Local Board area separately consequent upon the action of the committees appointed by Government for the fixing of the number of shops in such area together with the number of shops before such reduction in each such area ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—A statement furnishing the information asked for is laid on the Council table.

The Hon'ble Raja VASUDEVA RAJA Valia Nambidi of Kollengode :—

1045 [II] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to furnish statements showing the number of Muhammadan electors in each Municipal area, the total number of Municipal electors in each such area. the proportion of the first class to the second, the number of Muhammadan commissioners in each Municipality, the total number of commissioners in each and the proportion which the Muhammadan commissioners bear to the total number in each ?

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer :—

Answer.—A statement giving the particulars in question is laid on the Council table.

The Hon'ble Raja VASUDEVA RAJA Valia Nambidi of Kollengode :—

1046 [III] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to furnish a statement showing the total annual receipts under the head of prohibitory or penal assessment for four years prior and four years subsequent to the passing of Madras Act III of 1905 ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—Act III of 1905 was brought into force in fasli 1315. In that fasli the receipts from prohibitory assessment amounted to Rs. 2,12,000.

In the four preceding years the receipts were Rs. 2,39,000, 2,59,986, 2,87,000 and 2,32,000.

Figures are only available at present for two subsequent faslis 1316 and 1317 and they are Rs. 2,16,000 and 2,34,000.

The Hon'ble Raja VASUDEVA RAJA Valia Nambidi of Kollengode :—

1047 [IV] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to furnish a statement showing the total annual receipts under the head of assessment for irrigation by percolation since the passing of Madras Act V of 1900 to the end of June 1909 ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—The receipts under the head of assessment for irrigation by percolation are not exhibited separately in the Revenue accounts.

The Hon'ble Mr. KESAVA PILLAI :—

1048 [V] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to an article headed "Hospital Assistants and their fees" in the *Hindu* of the 17th August last on the hardships caused to the Hospital Assistants by G.O., No. 592, Judicial, dated 6th May last, under which Hospital Assistants drawing salary under Rs. 50 could lay claim to travelling allowance of only 3 pies per mile just like

menials, even though they have to travel 45 miles and 27 miles to attend Courts to give evidence, as the Hospital Assistants at Atmakur and Allagadda in Kurnool have to do respectively?

(b) Is it a fact that this rule does not apply to the Hospital Assistants in the Government employ, but only to the Hospital Assistants lent to or in the service of Municipalities and Local Boards? And is it a fact that the Hospital Assistants of even the fourth grade drawing Rs. 25 a month are entitled to draw As. 2 per mile and double the third-class railway fare if they happen to be in the Government service?

(c) If so, will the Government be pleased to place the Hospital Assistants in the service of Municipalities and Local Boards on the same footing as those in the Government service?

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer :—

Answer.—The attention of Government was lately drawn by the Surgeon-General to the rates of travelling allowance admissible to Hospital Assistants in Local Fund and Municipal employ attending Criminal Courts as witnesses under G.O., No. 592, Judicial, dated 6th May 1909, and the Government are taking steps to alter the rules.

The Hon'ble Mr. KESAVA PILLAI :—

1049 [VI] *Question.*—(a) Will the Government be pleased to say whether they have perused the article on page 4 in the *Hindu* newspaper of September 20, 1909, entitled "Enquiries into the conduct of public servants"?

(b) Is it true that Mr. Sullivan, late Superintendent of Police, South Arcot, was accused of having received illegal gratification from his subordinates and that an enquiry was held into his conduct under the Madras Act V of 1893?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state why they have withheld the report of the Hon'ble Mr. W. O. Horne on this enquiry, and their own orders thereon?

(d) Will the Government be now pleased to publish the report of the Hon'ble Mr. Horne?

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer :—

Answer.—(a) The Government have perused the article in question.

(b), (c) & (d) It is true that an enquiry was held by the Hon'ble Mr. Horne into the conduct of Mr. Sullivan, late Superintendent of Police, South Arcot. The Government do not consider that it is to the public interest that the report of that enquiry should be published.

The Hon'ble Mr. KESAVA PILLAI :—

1050 [VII] *Question.*—(a) In the case of Mr. P. Kershasp, I.C.S., will the Government be pleased to state whether effect was given to the principles laid down in Act 37 of 1850 for regulating enquiries into the conduct of public servants, and whether, under Standing Order No. 133 of the Board of Revenue, Mr. Kershasp and three officers who were punished with him were told of the evidence and arguments in support of the charges against them, and whether any of them was asked to defend himself at all with reference to any formulated charges?

(b) In view of the fact that the Madras Act V of 1893 does not lay down any procedure to be followed in cases of enquiry to be held under the Act, will the Government be pleased to fix for the conduct of enquiries in future a uniform procedure to be followed by the enquiring officer in regard to the examination of the complainant, witnesses for the prosecution, the examination of the accused and the defence witnesses, the inspection of documents, the representation of the prosecution and the defence by counsel and the like?

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer :—

Answer.—(a) The enquiry into Mr. Kershasp's conduct was held under Madras Act V of 1893, an Act specially intended to facilitate enquiries into the conduct of public servants. Mr. Kershasp and the three

other officers who were also punished for their conduct at the same time were, the Government consider, fully cognisant of the charges against them. They were aware that they were accused of misconduct on the day of the riot at Kotappakonda and in the statements made and the written explanations submitted by them with regard to their conduct they attempted to show that they had performed their duty but entirely failed to satisfy the Government in this respect. There was no necessity for formulated charges.

(*b*) The Government do not consider it necessary to take action in the manner suggested.

The Hon'ble Mr. Kesava Pillai :—

1051 [VIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to an article on page 4 in the *Hindu* newspaper of the 21st October 1909 under the heading "The Madras Small Cause Court"?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to take steps to secure arrangements by which appeals may be otherwise disposed of in future in that Court?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to say how many appeals were disposed of in the year 1908 by a Full Bench of the Small Cause Court, Madras, against the decision of one of the Judges of that Court, himself being a member of the Full Bench?

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer :—

Answer.—(*a*) & (*b*). The procedure in the Presidency Small Cause Court is regulated by the rules framed by the High Court under section 9 of the Presidency Small Cause Courts Act of 1882, and the Honourable Member's attention is drawn to Nos. 180 and 180 (*a*) of those rules as published in the supplement to the *Fort. St. George Gazette* of September 25, 1906. If any change in the existing procedure is desired, the High Court should be applied to.

(*c*) The Government have no information on the subject.

The Hon'ble Raja Virabhadra Razu Bahadur of Kurupam :—

1052 [IX] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the resolution, dated 19th August 1909, adopted by the Vizagapatam District Board embodying its intention to permanently close the Victoria hospital for women and children at Vizagapatam?

(*b*) Are the Government aware that the above resolution was proposed and carried all on a sudden without ascertaining the wishes of the public or giving sufficient notice in the usual course to the members of the District Board?

(*c*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the columns of the *Madras Times* and of the *Hindu* issues of the 8th September dealing with the Victoria hospital for women and children, Vizagapatam?

(*d*) Are the Government aware that the Victoria hospital for women and children like other institutions of the same kind in this Presidency is intended not for gosha ladies alone but for women and children of all classes, and that it is the oldest of its kind in the Northern Circars; that a building was presented for it to the District Board by the late Maharaja Gajapati Rao, K.C.I.E., which cost him Rs. 8,000 and that an additional annual contribution of Rs. 2,400 to meet the cost of salaries of a lady practitioner and her assistant is also being made even after his demise, by the Maharanee, true to the letter of her husband's will?

(*e*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the remarks in the hospital visitors' book and the reports in the annual returns, which clearly prove how promising and useful the institution has been all these 16 years in the opinion of responsible departmental authorities?

(*f*) In explanation of the remark made by the Acting Surgeon-General H. St. C. Carruthers that the operation register shows little work of much value, will the Government be pleased to take into account the fact that, in spite of the repeated

remarks by the Surgeon-General P. H. Benson and his predecessor, the District Board was not good enough to provide convenient quarters either to the lady practitioner or her assistant or even supply them with necessary instruments and appliances to undertake major cases of operation?

(*g*) In view of the above facts, will the Government be pleased to advise the District Board not to abolish that useful institution to the great inconvenience of female patients?

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government have lately received a communication on the subject from the Honourable Member himself, but no proposals have been submitted by the District Board.

(*b*) & (*e*) The Government have no information on the subject beyond what is contained in the communication from the Honourable Member referred to in the answer to clause (*a*).

(*c*) The Government have now perused the articles referred to.

(*d*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*f*) & (*g*) The Government will give due consideration to the matter on receipt of proposals from the District Board.

The Hon'ble Raja VIRABHADRA RAZU Bahadur of Kurupam :—

1053 [X] *Question*.—Has the Government's notice been drawn to Diwan Bahadur R. Ragoonatha Rao's letter, dated 26th June, contributed to the *Hindu* newspaper and which was written by him after reading the report of the Inspector-General of Police on the Guntur riots? Have any steps been taken by the Government on the restrictions he recommends should be introduced regarding the opening of arrack shops in out-of-the-way places on festival days in view of the effects that resulted therefrom in the Kotappakonda riots? If so, will the Government be pleased to state what those steps are?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—The Government have now perused the letter referred to. In the matter of granting occasional licenses for the sale of liquor during fairs and festivals, Collectors have already been instructed to exercise their discretion with great care and after due consideration in each case. Instructions have also been issued that ordinarily there should not be more than one additional arrack and one additional toddy shop at any fair or festival.

The Hon'ble Raja VIRABHADRA RAZU Bahadur of Kurupam :—

1054 [XI] *Question*.—As no time-gun is fired in the town of Vizagapatam, will the Government be pleased to state whether they have enquired or intend to enquire why M.R.Ry. Sri A. V. Jugga Rao Garu, Proprietor of the Shermuhammadpuram estate in the Vizagapatam district, has not availed himself of the sanction Government accorded in its G.O., No. 202, dated 7th March 1908, to continue the firing of the time-gun at Vizagapatam that was introduced by the grandfather of the present proprietor in the year 1871, and was steadily continued till it was put a stop to on the 25th October 1907? If it be not the intention of the present proprietor to continue this time-honoured custom, will the Government be pleased to ask the Collector of the district to arrange for its continuance by the Municipality assisted, if necessary, by public subscription?

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer :—

Answer.—A report has been called for upon the subject from the Collector.

The Hon'ble Raja VIRABHADRA RAZU Bahadur of Kurupam :—

1055 [XII] *Question*.—In view of the great inconvenience felt by all residents in Waltair for want of water and also taking into consideration the fact that this question has been under the consideration of the Government for the last two

years or so, will the Government be pleased to provide the funds required by the estimates in the next budget and issue final orders that this very urgent need be at once met and the work started without any further delay?

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer :—

Answer.—The Government much regret that it has not been possible up to date to carry out the extension of the Vizagapatam water-supply to Waltair. The reservoir of the Vizagapatam water-works has developed leaks which render it impossible to supply even Vizagapatam proper with the amount of water the scheme was designed to distribute. The Sanitary Board has accordingly recommended that the extension of the scheme to Waltair should be postponed until the questions of stopping this leakage and of otherwise increasing the amount of water to be supplied both to Vizagapatam and Waltair have been further examined. In June last the Sanitary Engineer was directed to take up these questions and treat them as urgent.

The Hon'ble Raja Virabhadra Razu Bahadur of Kurupam :—

1056 [XIII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state whether in these times of unrest they have taken any special measures to control the sale of explosive ingredients of the bomb and whether it will not be advisable to restrict the sale of these explosives to only license-holders who are residents of district head-quarters, so that there may be ample opportunities for the head of the district to check their sales as often as necessary; and if it be found advisable to extend this privilege to the mufassal, whether it will not be feasible to empower such licensees to open branch shops there to be controlled by their agents on their own responsibility?

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer :—

Answer.—Rules regulating the manufacture, possession and sale of explosives have been made by the Government of India under sections 5 and 7 of the Indian Explosives Act, 1884, and the sale of explosives covered by those rules has been restricted to persons licensed in accordance therewith. The selection of licensees in the mufassal is vested in District Magistrates, and the Government do not usually interfere with the exercise of their discretion. The Madras Government have taken no special measures in the matter and do not to propose do so.

The Hon'ble Mr. Kesava Pillai :—

1057 [XIV] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the report promised to be called for in answer to my Question No. XVII * at the last Council meeting has been received?

* 1036 *supra*, p. 372,

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to answer the question?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether, in the case referred to in the above question, the owners of the sheep and goats were prosecuted before the Magistrate and, if so, with what result?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—The case referred to by the Honourable Member in his Question No. XVII † asked at the last Council occurred four years ago. The District Forest Officer offered to compound for the sum named in that question. He fixed the compounding fee not with reference to the damage caused by the particular herd of goats and sheep, but as a deterrent in consequence of the continual occurrence of similar offences in the Kondavidu Reserved Forest. In that reserve, though it was closed to grazing, illicit grazing was so rife that the slopes of the Kondavidu hill were becoming denuded of trees and there was reason to fear that, unless this process was put a stop to, the water-supply to the streams and springs in the neighbourhood would be materially affected. The owners of the sheep and goats declined to pay the compounding fee and were criminally prosecuted but without success.

† *ibid.*

The Hon'ble Mr. KESAVA PILLAI :—

1058 [XV] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the ryots of Vengalampalli and Pyapalli villages in Pattikonda taluk, Kurnool district, applied for and obtained permits in July last to graze their cattle and sheep in the adjoining Pyapalli reserve during the year 1909–1910?

(*b*) If so, is it a fact that, within a week after the permits were issued, the permit-holders were prohibited by tom-tom from entering into the reserve to graze their cattle and sheep according to the permits?

(*c*) If so, is it a fact that the prohibition was made on the ground that there had been a fire or fires in the said Pyapalli reserve four or five months before the permits were applied for and obtained and the ryots had not rendered help to the forest officials in putting out the fires?

(*d*) If the prohibition was not made on the said ground, what was the cause of such a sudden refusal to comply with the terms of the permits issued after receiving the prescribed seigniorage fees from the ryots?

(*e*) Is it a fact that the permit-holders have appealed to the higher authorities without avail and they were informed that "their request cannot be granted"?

(*f*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the money paid for the permits was offered to be returned when the permit-holders were denied the right to graze their cattle and sheep for the period covered by the permits? If not, has the Forest department any right to forfeit the money?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—A fire occurred in the Pyapalli reserve in March 1909, and a second fire shortly afterwards, and as the fires appeared to have been intentionally caused and the villagers absolutely declined to give any assistance in putting out either fire, the Collector on receipt of a report from the District Forest Officer in June, issued orders closing the reserve to grazing and an appeal against this order was rejected by the Board of Revenue. Any ryot, who had meanwhile taken out a grazing permit, can obtain a refund of the fee paid thereon, if he likes, but as the closure is only for six months, while the permit holds good for a year, and the fee is extremely low, no ryot is likely to adopt this course.

The Hon'ble Mr. KESAVA PILLAI :—

1059 [XVI] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the ryots of these two villages have any other grounds of pasturage near their villages to keep their cattle and sheep in good condition?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether a person who has taken a permit to graze his cattle in a particular reserve, which is shortly after closed to grazing, can be prevented by the Forest department from grazing his cattle in the adjoining reserve unless he takes out a fresh permit for that reserve?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government have been informed that the ryots have other grounds of pasturage near their villages.

(*b*) The answer is in the affirmative.

The Hon'ble Mr. KESAVA PILLAI :—

1060 [XVII] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the article in the *Indian Patriot* written by Diwan Bahadur Ragoonatha Rao headed the "Ryots' woe" or "Deprived of pasturage", and also to another article "Forest oppression in Tinnevelly" in the *Hindu*?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to take due notice to redress the grievances complained of in the two articles respectively?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government noticed the article in the *Hindu* headed "Forest oppression in Tinnevelly" (from a correspondent) and considered that the article did not call for action on the part of Government.

(*b*) The Government have now perused the article in the *Indian Patriot* headed "Ryots' woe." It does not specify any defect in the administration of the Madras Forest department which can be remedied by Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. KESAVA PILLAI :—

1061 [XVIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the Collector of Cuddapah has issued notice No. 213/80 of 1909 in August last that from the 20th August landholders should issue permits to carry wood or fuel from their lands or forests in the printed forms prescribed by the Forest department to be purchased from the District Forest Officer by the landholders on pain of forfeiture of the produce under section 41, Forest Act?

(*b*) If so, is it a fact at that that notice lays down the following conditions under which alone a landholder could exercise his proprietary right, such as right of use, sale, gift, etc., with regard to the forest produce in his own lands?

(1) The permits should be in printed forms to be obtained from the District Forest Officer at As. 5 a hundred.

(2) The counterfoil back of such permits should be submitted to the District Forest Officer after its completion.

(3) The permit book in current use with counterfoils should be submitted for inspection of a forest official above the rank of a forester when required.

(4) The permit used should be given up by the landholder or his servant on the land or at the place named by the District Forest Officer.

(5) The sample signature of the agent appointed by the pattadar should be submitted to the District Forest Officer.

(6) No permission should be given to sell at Madanapalle after the day fixed in the permit and, when the distance exceeds 12 miles, the permit should not be made available for more than two days.

(7) From or after the 20th August fuel brought under the permits given in contravention of the above conditions will be kept under "amanath" under section 41 of the Forest Act.

(*c*) If so, in view of the restrictions and hardships which the enforcement of such conditions would entail on the land-owners, will the Government be pleased to withdraw the circular?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—The circular which was intended to apply only to certain lands in the neighbourhood of Madanapalle has already been withdrawn.

The Hon'ble Mr. KESAVA PILLAI :—

1062 [XIX] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state, in reference to my Question No. VII * at the Council meeting of 25th January last, whether they have been pleased to exercise the powers reserved to the Local Governments by clause 61 of the Code of Civil Procedure (Act V of 1908) for the benefit of the agriculturists? * 1010 *supra* p. 363.

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—The question of exempting under section 61, Code of Civil Procedure, any portion or class of agricultural produce from liability to attachment or sale in execution of a decree has received the careful consideration of this Government, and they are of opinion that at present no orders to that effect are necessary.

The Hon'ble Mr. KESAVA PILLAI :—

1063 [XX] *Question.*—With reference to the observations of the Crown Prosecutor in an article in the *Madras Mail* of the 21st October 1909, under the heading "The Guzerati Defamation Case," that the delay of over three years in the disposal of the case by the Chief Presidency Magistrate "was certainly, to a large

extent, unavoidable," will the Government be pleased to say (1) how far that observation is borne out by the facts of the case, (2) what was the actual period of the delay and (3) what were the causes for the same?

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer :—

Answer.—The case referred to lasted in all for 29 months, and of these 15 were occupied in the execution of commissions which had to be sent to different parts of India. It appears to have been a difficult and complicated case, and the Government do not see any reason to differ from the Crown Prosecutor's view that the delay was to a large extent unavoidable.

The Hon'ble Raja VASUDEVA RAJA Valia Nambidi of Kollengode :—

1064 [XXI] *Question.*—(*a*) Are the Government aware of the facts that tolls are maintained at short distances in some districts and that they are a source of hardship to agriculturists and poorer classes?

(*b*) Are the Government aware of the policy which is being pursued by the Government of Bombay of abolishing tolls on Provincial roads, disallowing the establishment of fresh toll-bars by Local Boards and gradually bringing about the abolition of the existing tolls under Local Boards by making increased Provincial grants to recoup their loss, if necessary?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to consider the feasibility of gradually adopting a similar policy in this Presidency?

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer :—

Answer.—The Government always scrutinize very closely a proposal to rearrange or increase the number of toll-gates in any district, and as a rule toll-gates are not allowed within a distance of twenty miles of each other. In Malabar, however, the Government have been obliged to depart from this rule in view of the facts that the construction and maintenance of roads is more expensive than in other districts and that the bridges also cost more to build and to maintain. It is questionable whether in Malabar toll-gates which enable roads and bridges to be maintained in fair order do not form the most suitable means of raising revenue for this purpose. The Government have no information of the policy pursued in the Presidency of Bombay in the matter, but in this Presidency any proposals from District Boards to reduce the number of toll-gates are sympathetically considered. The Government, however, are not prepared at present to make Provincial grants to District Boards depend upon their taking definite steps to abolish toll-gates.

The Hon'ble Raja VASUDEVA RAJA Valia Nambidi of Kollengode :—

1065 [XXII] *Question.*—In view of the facts that carts going from Kishakethara (near Kollengode, Malabar) to Palghat have to pay two tolls—one a Local Fund toll at Kishakethara and another a Municipal toll at Palghat—within a short distance of eleven miles in addition to ferry charges during the monsoon when the Palghat river is in flood and in view of the fact that fuel carts coming to Kollengode and adjoining villages have to pay the Local Fund toll, will Government be pleased to remove the same from the next official year and to make good the loss resulting therefrom by granting an increased Provincial grant to the District Board?

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer :—

Answer.—The matter will be referred to the President of the District Board, Malabar, for a report. The Government, however, do not consider that there is any reason shown for a Provincial grant.

The Hon'ble Raja VASUDEVA RAJA Valia Nambidi of Kollengode :—

1066 [XXIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that cattle mortality and consequent loss to the ryots have been very severe this year in Malabar?

(b) Will Government be pleased to open a veterinary hospital for each of the taluks in Malabar or at least one in the Palghat taluk and another in the Walavanad taluk where cattle disease has been more prevalent and the number of cattle is more numerous than in the other taluks of that district?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—(a) The deaths of cattle in the Malabar district in fasli 1318 were 14,649 against an average in the previous five years of 4,345. Of the 14,649 deaths in fasli 1318, 9,007 were due to an outbreak of rinderpest.

(b) The question of establishing veterinary hospitals in the Malabar disitriot will receive due attention in connection with the general scheme already sanctioned by the Government for the starting of veterinary institutions in the Presidency.

The Hon'ble Raja VASUDEVA RAJA Valia Nambidi of Kollengode :—

1067 [XXIV] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to say whether their Order No. 34, Legislative, dated 1st October 1909, permitting free supply of Government publications to Honourable Members of the Legislative Council also covers Government Orders that are placed at the disposal of the Press? If not, will Government be pleased to extend the concession with respect to such Government Orders and also to the Civil Budget estimates of other Provinces?

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer :—

Answer.—G.O., No. 34, Legislative, dated 1st October 1909, applies only to books and publications other than Government Orders. The gratuitous supply of Government Orders placed at the disposal of the Press was authorised in G.O., No. 44, Legislative, dated 31st May 1895, printed in G.O., No. 45, Legislative, dated 6th June 1908, a copy of which has been furnished to the Honourable Member. The Government regret that they cannot undertake the gratuitous supply of the Civil Budget estimates of other Provinces. If any Honourable Member requests the loan of any of these estimates and copies are available, the Government will have no objection to lending them.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

1068 [XXV] *Question.*—(a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any expert has been appointed to investigate the possibilities of the Vizagapatam harbour?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to see that such expert as may be appointed is unconnected with any company having an interest in the ports of Calcutta and Bombay?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state how much money is in deposit to the credit of the port, and whether dredging is not necessary to remove the sand bar at the mouth of the port?

(d) In view of the delay which must occur before the project is completed, will the Government be pleased to direct the undertaking of such improvements as dredging as are necessary for the improvement of the port?

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer :—

Answer.—(a) & (b) The Government have applied to the Secretary of State for the services of an expert from England to investigate a scheme for the improvement of the Vizagapatam harbour, but so far as they are aware, his selection has not yet been made.

(c) & (d) The Vizagapatam Landing and Shipping Fund is expected to close with a balance of Rs. 1,53,000 at the end of the year 1909-1910. The Government are advised that no dredging on the bar is at present necessary.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

1069 [XXVI] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the length of the mileage of new lines of railway under construction in 1909–1910 (1) in the Madras Presidency, (2) in the rest of British India ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any and what new lines of railway have been recommended to be included in the railway budget for 1909–1910 ?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to urge on the Railway Board and the Government of India the importance of the speedy construction of the line between Parvatípuram and Raipur ?

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer :—

Answer.—(*a*) On the 31st March 1909 there were 2,740 miles of line sanctioned for construction in British India, of which 143·44 miles were in this Presidency. It is not known how many of those outside this Presidency are actually under construction, but the mileage of new lines of railway under construction in the Madras Presidency at present is 66·5 miles—

Dharmapuri-Hosúr, 2′ 6″ gauge, 60·5 miles.

Kanevehalli-Sandur, 3′ 3⅜″ gauge, 6·0 miles.

(*b*) The lines recommended by this Government for inclusion in the railway budget of 1909-1910 are—

(1) Panruti-Trichinopoly.
(2) Trichinopoly-Ramnad.
(3) Dindigul-Palni-Palghat.
(4) Nanjangud-Erode.

(*c*) The Government have already taken the action suggested.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

1070 [XXVII] *Question.*—Is it a fact that the construction of the bridge across the Kolab has been stopped, and will the Government be pleased to see that the work is resumed at an early date ?

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer :—

Answer.—The work has been stopped. The Government do not intend to resume it in the immediate future.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

1071 [XXVIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the length of the metalled roads in the Agency tracts of the Vizagapatam and Ganjám districts, and what portions thereof have been constructed within the last three years ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the area of the Vizagapatam Agency is 12,622 square miles and the Ganjám Agency 4,889 and there are 9,436 and 2,596 villages therein, and there are no good roads or rest-houses even between the majority of the principal taluk centres ?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state what the income of the Koraput District Board is which can be spared for communications, and whether there is any prospect of any new roads being undertaken in the near future out of the Board's funds ?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to state how much expenditure was incurred by it on roads in the Vizgapatam Agency within the last ten years before the constitution of the Koraput District Board ?

(*e*) Will the Government be pleased to make liberal grants from Provincial funds for expenditure on communications in the Agency till the country is developed ?

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer :—

Answer.—(*a*) The information is not available, but will be called for and furnished if desired.

(*b*) The figures quoted by the Honourable Member for the Vizagapatam Agency are correct. The area of the Ganjám Agency is, however, only 3,483 square miles and the number of villages in it 1,926. For a description of the roads in the Vizagapatam Agency the attention of the Honourable Member is invited to pages 136 to 143 of Volume I of the Gazetteer of the Vizagapatam district issued in 1907. The bungalows are enumerated in Appendix XXXVI of Volume II. There are several good roads in the Ganjám Agency and many bungalows which are enumerated in Appendix XXXVI of Volume II of the Ganjám Gazetteer.

(*c*) The income of the Koraput District Board in 1909–1910, excluding opening balance and Government contributions, is expected to be Rs. 50,180. The Board is required to allot for communications a minimum equal to half the income from land-cess *plus* the net income from tolls or Rs. 33,550, whereas it has allotted Rs. 74,600, the excess above the Board's income being met from the grant of Rs. 41,000 made to the Board by Government. The allotment for the construction and completion of new roads in the current year is Rs. 35,080.

(*d*) Over five lakhs of rupees.

(*e*) The matter has received, and will continue to receive, the careful attention of Government.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

1072 [XXIX] *Question.*— Is it a fact that a large number of persons emigrate from the districts of Ganjám and Vizagapatam including the Agency to Assam, Burma, South Africa and other places? and in view of the sparsity of population in the Agency and large tracts containing rich soil lying undeveloped, will the Government be pleased to take measures to completely check emigration from the Agency and the flow of all indentured labour from the said districts?

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer :—

Answer.—According to the annual reports received by Government, the number of persons who emigrated from the districts of Ganjám and Vizagapatam to Assam, Burma, Ceylon, Straits Settlements and Natal, during the three years ending 1907–1908 and 1908, was as follows :—

—	To Assam.		To Burma.		To Ceylon and Straits Settlements.		To Natal.	
	Year.	Number.	Year.	Number.*	Year.	Number.	Year.	Number.
Ganjám	1905–1906	1,444	1906	43,216	1906	..	1906	3
	1906–1907	890	1907	31,939	1907	..	1907	..
	1907–1908	3,836	1908	31,388	1908	..	1908	..
Vizagapatam	1905–1906	373	1906	24,716	1906	..	1906	553
	1906–1907	144	1907	15,658	1907	..	1907	422
	1907–1908	259	1908	24,414	1908	..	1908	373

* The figures represent the number of passengers including genuine emigrants.

Emigration from the Agency tracts of Ganjám and Vizagapatam to Assam is prohibited by a statutory notification under section 3 of the Assam Labour and Emigration Act, 1901. Emigration to Burma, the Straits Settlements and Ceylon is not subject to any legal restriction. Emigration to Natal from any portion of the Ganjám and Vizagapatam districts has not been prohibited. It is inconsiderable and, in the absence of more definite complaints and fuller information, the Government do not consider that action in the direction indicated by the Honourable Member is necessary. They are not aware that there is any appreciable emigration from the *Agency* tracts of the two districts to Natal.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

1073 [XXX] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state the number of persons and cattle killed by wild beasts in 1908-1909 (*a*) in the Presidency, (*b*) in the Agency tracts of Vizagapatam and Ganjám, (*c*) in the Koraput taluk of Vizagapatam, (*d*) the number of licenses for fire-arms issued in (1) Malabar, (2) the Agency tracts of Ganjám and Vizagapatam during each of the last three years?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—(*a*) The number of persons and cattle killed by wild beasts in the Madras Presidency in the calendar year 1908, the latest year for which statistics are available, was 236 persons and 12,427 cattle.

(*b*) & (*c*) Figures are not separately available in respect of the Koraput taluk or the Agency tracts of Vizagapatam and Ganjám.

(*d*) The number of licenses issued for the possession of fire-arms alone is not reported. The number of licenses for the possession of arms of all description issued during the last three years in Malabar was—

1906	7,433
1907	7,234
1908	7,064

The Agency tracts of Ganjám and Vizagapatam are exempted from the operation of the Arms Act Rules save in respect of rifled arms and cannon.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

1074 [XXXI] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state in what particulars task-work is more rigorously enforced in Vellore jail than elsewhere, and whether it is a fact that the net profits of the mnufacturing department in the said jail in 1908 is double what it was during the previous year?

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer :—

Answer.—The task-work referred to by the Inspector-General in his Administration report for 1908 in the Vellore jail chiefly related to carpet-weaving. According to statement XII-A attached to the Jail Administration Report for 1908, the net profits of the Vellore jail were Rs. 15,834-15-0 in that year as against Rs. 8,030-2-0 in 1907; but as that statement takes account of the value of raw material on hand, it furnishes no real indication as regards the amount of labour exacted from convicts.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

1075 [XXXII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state (1) in what respects the experimental diet scale in force since 1st July 1908 in the jails of Trichinopoly, Cannanore and Rajahmundry differs from the scale prescribed in the Jail Manual, (2) what the money saving effected thereby has been, (3) what the effect has been on the health and body weight of the prisoners, (4) whether the new diet is popular?

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer :—

Answer.—(1) The difference between the scale of diet prescribed in the Jail Manual for labouring adult male prisoners and the experimental scale is furnished in a statement laid on the Council table.

(2) The total saving effected by the introduction of the new diet is not known, but it has been estimated that under the new scale the cost of dieting a convict for one year would be reduced by Rs. 3-2-3.

(3) The Government have recently received a report from a committee consisting of the Surgeon-General, the Sanitary Commissioner and the Inspector-General of Prisons. The report states that the figures of weighments, sickness and mortality in the three Central Jails in which the new scale was tentatively introduced are encouraging.

(4) There were some complaints from convicts on the introduction of the new dietary, but these have now disappeared.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

1076 [XXXIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the manufacturing output in jails is almost entirely limited to meeting the demands of other departments of Government?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the policy to prevent jail labour competing with private enterprise has not prevented the useful employment of prisoners in manufacturing industries, and whether the growing cost of maintaining the prisons cannot be reduced by a wider extension of jail-manufacturing industries?

(*c*) Whether jails cannot be usefully employed in making experiments in effecting improvements in the methods of industrial processes?

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer :—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) The number of convicts who can usefully be employed in manufacturing is limited, as the majority belong to the agricultural classes. No great extension of jail manufactures is possible.

(*c*) The Government are in general sympathy with the object suggested, but there are practical difficulties in the way owing to the limited number of the jail population who could be employed to advantage in this manner.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

1077 [XXXIV] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state what steps they propose to take for improving secondary education in this Presidency and for the establishment by Government of model high schools in each district, and whether any provision is intended to be made therefor in the budget for 1910–1911?

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer :—

Answer.—The Government are unable to furnish the information asked for by the Honourable Member as proposals for improving secondary education and for the establishment of model high schools submitted by the Director of Public Instruction at the end of last month have not yet been considered by Government. The Government do not propose at present to make any provision for these schemes in the budget for 1910–1911 as before they can be finally sanctioned they will require the approval of the Secretary of State.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

1078 [XXXV] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state how many new elementary schools have been opened in this Presidency during the current year, and whether any proposals have been made for starting new schools in villages where there are at present no schools?

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer :—

Answer.—The Government can give no information as to the number of elementary schools opened during the current year till it has expired. The latest statistics available are for the year 1908–1909, in which 5,668 elementary schools for boys were newly opened and 5,183 existing schools were closed, resulting in a net increase of 485 schools. Government have no information as to how many schools are proposed to be started in villages where there are no schools at present.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

1079 [XXXVI] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state the number of women undergoing training at the expense of—

(*a*) Government,

(*b*) Local Boards,

where they are being trained, how many of them are caste women-teachers, and what steps, if any, are intended to be taken to increase the number of such teachers and training institutions?

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer :—

Answer.—On the 31st March 1909, 431 women were undergoing training in the nineteen Training Schools for Mistresses.

In the five of these which are managed by the Government the entire expenditure was met from Provincial revenues.

The other fourteen schools were aided institutions under private management and out of a total cost for the official year 1908–1909 of Rs. 47,651 Provincial revenues provided Rs. 28,120.

Local Boards did not devote any funds during the year to the training of mistresses.

Of the 431 women under training 53 were caste Hindus (Brahmans 4 and non-Brahmans 49).

No proposals to add to the number of training institutions for mistresses have been received. The existing institutions afford accommodation for a larger number of students than is at present forthcoming.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

1080 [XXXVII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to modify the rules regulating the distribution of grants to girls' schools and boys' schools where girls are taught, to encourage the education of girls?

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer :—

Answer.—The suggestion of the Honourable Member will be considered when the Grant-in-Aid Code is next revised.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

1081 [XXXVIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the total strength of the Coimbatore Agricultural College?

(*b*) How many of them are from the Circars, Nellore and the Ceded districts?

(*c*) How many of them, if any, are science graduates and what subjects they are specialising themselves in?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—(*a*) The College was opened in June 1908 and only two classes have been formed as yet. The strength of the two classes is 31.

(*b*) Of the 31 students one belongs to Vizagapatam and one to Bellary. There is no student from the other districts mentioned by the Honourable Member.

(*c*) None of the students are science graduates.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

1082 [XXXIX] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) In how many of the zamindari and proprietary estates in this Presidency the enfranchisement of service inams has been completed?

(*b*) In how many the materials for enfranchisement are ready?

(*c*) When the operations are expected to be completed?

(*d*) In so far as the enfranchisement proceedings are completed, by how much the revenue, if at all, falls short of the expenditure?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—(*a*) Enfranchisement has been completed in all estates except those in the districts of Salem and Chingleput, in Venkatagiri and in a few minor estates in Nellore.

(*b*) Materials are ready for 774 out of 1,195 villages in Salem and for almost the whole of Venkatagiri in Nellore.

(*c*) & (*d*) The operations are expected to be completed in about a year more. Their total cost up to 31st March 1909 was Rs. 5,32,830 and the total annual quit-rent on service inams in the estates in which the operations were complete on that date was Rs. 5,63,110.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

1083 [XL] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to recommend to the Government of India or take such other steps as may be necessary to place the zamindari tracts on the same footing as ryotwari tracts in respect of the village service cess ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—The Government of India have decided that the question of the abolition of the Proprietary Estates' Village Service Cess will be taken into consideration when the financial position admits of a remission of local taxation.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

1084 [XLI] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state why the number of village courts exercising civil jurisdiction fell from 5,565 in 1907 to 5,422 in 1908 ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state what steps, if any, they propose to take to make the village courts more popular and efficient, and whether they do not consider it desirable to constitute village panchayats and make a resort to them compulsory in petty cases ?

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Honourable Member will observe from paragraph 7 of G.O., No. 1245, Judicial, dated the 16th September 1909, which was placed on the Editors' Table, that the figures relating to village courts are of doubtful accuracy and that an inquiry into the subject has been ordered.

(*b*) It will be observed from paragraph 6 of the same Government Order that District officers endeavour as far as possible to encourage resort to village courts, that the Government desire that such endeavour should be maintained, and that Munsifs should be carefully selected with special reference to their ability and influence among their fellow-villagers.

The question of establishing village panchayats, with jurisdiction in petty cases, will come under consideration with reference to Chapter XVIII of the report of the Royal Commission on Decentralization.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

1085 [XLII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the high average duration of suits in many of the Agency Courts is due to the fact that the presiding officers of the Courts have frequently to go on tour in connection with their other multifarious duties ?

(*b*) Is it also a fact that in several cases parties and witnesses are put to enormous expense and inconvenience having to travel with the officers in their tours ?

(*c*) Is it also a fact, as stated in the Report of the Administration of Jails for 1907, that the health of the prisoners received into the Vizagapatam Jail, especially from the hill tracts, is usually very bad, and the long marches many of these have to undertake before arriving at their destination help to bring about this state ?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to establish permanent Courts in one or more of the Agency centres to administer civil and criminal justice ?

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer :—

Answer.—(*a*) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to paragraph 22 of the Report on the Administration of Civil Justice for 1908 in which the touring of the officers is said to be one of the causes of the high duration of cases in many of the Courts, another cause being the difficulty of securing the attendance of parties and witnesses in these remote tracts.

(*b*) The Government are not aware of any such cases.

(*c*) The Government have no information regarding the state of health of prisoners from the hill tracts of Vizagapatam other than that given in paragraphs 46 and 50 of the Report on the Administration of the Jails for 1907 to which the Honourable Member apparently alludes.

(*d*) The Government see no present reason for making any radical change in the system of judicial administration in the Agencies.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

1086 [XLIII] *Question*.—(*a*) Is it a fact that on the occurrence of temporary vacancies District Munsifs are given grade promotions but not Subordinate Judges?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state if there is any rule prohibiting such promotions and grant the Subordinate Judges grade promotions, modifying such rules, if any?

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer :—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) As the Honourable Member was informed in answer to a similar question in November 1906, officiating promotions in the Subordinate Judge's grades are inadmissible under the rules of the Civil Service Regulations, which the Local Government have no power to alter.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

1087 [XLIV] *Question*.—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state—

(1) the area under sugarcane crop cultivation in the Presidency during the last five years for which figures are available?

(2) the approximate extent of sugar and jaggery manufactured from sugarcane and palm juice during the said period?

(3) the quantity and value of sugar imported into the Presidency during the same period?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to take special steps to promote the sugar industry by—

(1) reducing at least temporarily the water-rate on water supplied for sugarcane cultivation?

(2) selling at cost price and affording special facilities for the purchase of the small timber required to prop up the canes?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—(*a*) (1) The area under sugarcane cultivation in the Presidency during the five years ending 1908–1909 was as follows :—

	ACS.
1904–1905	58,450
1905–1906	68,738
1906–1907	58,586
1907–1908	83,865
1908–1909	90,195

(2) Information as to the total amount of sugar and jaggery produced from sugarcane and palm juice in this Presidency is not available.

(3) The quantity and value of the sugar imported during the five years ending 1908–1909 were as follow :—

	Quantity (excludes molasses and confectionery).
	CWT.
1904–1905	119,128
1905–1906	47,798
1906–1907	150,109
1907–1908	50,797
1908–1909	138,378
	Value.
	RS.
1904–1905	7,83,981
1905–1906	3,51,492
1906–1907	10,71,588
1907–1908	5,16,674
1908–1909	13,15,231

(*b*) (1) The figures of cultivation above supplied do not indicate that sugarcane stands in any need of special encouragement, the area under this crop having increased by 54 per cent. in four years. Nor would it be in accordance with the accepted principles of land revenue assessment to fix the assessment with reference to the crop raised rather than with reference to the classification of the soil.

(2) The Government do not consider that any sufficient reason exists for preferential treatment being accorded to this industry.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

1088 [XLV] *Question.*—Is it a fact that, while the revenue from timber and other produce removed from the forests by Government agency has increased by Rs. 63,337 from Rs. 13,24,647 in 1906–1907 to Rs. 13,87,984 in 1907–1908, the expenditure has increased by Rs. 83,678 from Rs. 7,48,558 to Rs. 8,32,236 and, if so, will the Government be pleased to state why ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—The figures quoted by the Honourable Member appear to be correct. The increase in receipts is due to larger removals of forest produce and the increase in expenditure to larger establishment being employed in connection with such removals.

The Hon'ble Mr. GURUSWAMI AIYAR :—

1089 [XLVI] *Question.*—(*a*) Has His Excellency the Governor received a letter, dated Broadway, Madras, 25th May 1909, from Mr. Sam Manickam complaining against the method and result of the enquiry held by the Hon'ble Mr. J. Andrew into the conduct of Major R. H. Elliot, I.M.S. ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that Government have declined to forward to the Secretary of State for India Mr. Sam Manickam's appeal, dated 1st June 1908 ?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the Hon'ble Mr. Andrew did not allow Mr. Sam Manickam to be present at the examination of the witnesses to prove his case ?

(*d*) Is it a fact that the Hon'ble Mr. Andrew and the Government concur in finding that there is no truth in any of the serious allegations made against Major Elliot, I.M.S., and that Mr. Sam Manickam has been a party to the conspiracy which resulted in the making of them ?

(*e*) If so, will Government be prepared to direct the prosecution of Mr. Sam Manickam either by themselves or by Major Elliot as Mr. Sam Manickam himself invites them to do in his letter to me, dated 22nd October 1909 ?

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer :—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) The answer is in the affirmative, but a report was subsequently sent to the Secretary of State.

(*c*) Mr. Sam Manickam was a witness, not a prosecutor.

(*d*) The orders of Government on Mr. Andrew's report are contained in G.O., No. 245, Public, dated 21st March 1908, which was placed on the Editors' Table.

(*e*) The Government are not prepared to adopt this course.

The Hon'ble Mr. GURUSWAMI AIYAR :—

1090 [XLVII] *Question.*—(*a*) With reference to the statement in paragraph 24 of the report for 1908 on the Administration of the Police of the Presidency that there were 19 cases of justifiable homicide during the year, will Government be pleased to state whether they usually receive in every such case a report of the circumstances constituting the necessity and the justification for the homicide and pass their orders thereon ?

(*b*) If not, will Government be pleased to order that there should be such a report submitted in every such case for their disposal ?

(*c*) Will Government further direct that every such report and disposal should be published as a Government Order available for the Editors' Table ?

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer :—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) & (*c*) The Government see no reason to call for the special reports suggested, seeing that every such case is made the subject of judicial investigation.

The Hon'ble Mr. GURUSWAMI AIYAR :—

1091 [XLVIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Has Government's attention been drawn to a communication at page 6 of the *Hindu* of the 26th October 1909 under the heading " A Harikatha Kalakshepam stopped "?

(*b*) Is it a fact that, at the bidding of the Assistant Engineer referred to therein, the Police stopped the kalakshepam and, if so, what was the justification for the interference of the officers concerned ?

(*c*) If there was no justification, will Government be pleased to state what notice they have taken or propose to take of the conduct of the officers concerned ?

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer :—

Answer.—The Government have perused the communication in question ; they see no reason to make a special inquiry into the matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. GURUSWAMI AIYAR :—

1092 [XLIX] *Question.*—(*a*) Has it come to the notice of Government that Mrs. Hoy, the widow of one of the Police Sergeants who died of cholera while on duty at the time of the Tinnevelly riots of March 1908, is so entirely destitute as to depend on church charity for maintaining herself and her child ?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to consider if in her distress any relief can properly be afforded to her in view of her husband's services ?

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer :—

Answer.—The Government have received no representation on the subject.

The Hon'ble Mr. GURUSWAMI AIYAR :—

1093 [L] *Question.*—(*a*) Do Government concur with the Inspector-General of Police in his statement in paragraph 25 of his Administration Report for 1908 that the position of the Village Magistrate has become "distinctly more influential and "capable of deciding the fortunes" of criminal cases ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state if for their honesty they do not rely more on their social status and proper recruitment than on their pay?

(c) Have Government observed that the number of impecunious people holding the office is gradually on the increase?

(d) Will Government be pleased to send for and place on the table at their convenience a return for one district, say, Tinnevelly, such as will show what landed or other property these officers hold?

(e) Will Government be pleased to rule that in making new appointments a suitable property qualification should be insisted on?

The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew :—

Answer.—(a) The Government agree with the Inspector-General that the abolition of the village beat system has made the Village Magistrates more influential in that they are responsible for the prompt and efficient performance of police duties in their villages.

(b) *to* (e) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to paragraph 8 of Board's Standing Order No. 148 which expressly lays down that in selecting men for the office of village headman care should be taken to appoint individuals possessed of some property, and observes that persons who possess no independent means and depend entirely on the emoluments of the office are not suited for appointment as headmen. The Government have no reason to believe that these standing instructions are not observed by District officers or that there has been any increase in the number of impecunious persons holding the office, and see no sufficient reason to call for any return on the subject. They will, however, be pleased to investigate any instances which may be brought to their notice in which the provisions of the Board's Standing Order above quoted have been improperly departed from.

The Hon'ble Mr. Guruswami Aiyar :—

1094 [LI] *Question.*—(a) Are Government aware that Devasthanam Committees constituted under Act XX of 1863 often omit to hold elections to fill vacancies on those bodies owing to the unsuitabilitly of the election rules in force?

(b) Is it not a fact that the Board of Revenue called for suggestions for amending those rules last year?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state what has been done in the matter thus far?

(d) Will Government be pleased to take on hand the amendment of the rules so as to make them workable and the elections practicable?

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer :—

Answer.—The subject is under the consideration of Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. Guruswami Aiyar :—

1095 [LII] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to state in what state is their proposal to increase the pay of Sub-Magistrates, when it is likely to be carried out, and if any change in the method of recruitment is contemplated?

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer :—

Answer.—The matter is still under consideration.

The Hon'ble Mr. Guruswami Aiyar :—

1096 [LIII] *Question.*—(a) Has Government's attention been drawn to the article under the heading "A Sessions Trial" at page 6 of the *Hindu* of the 22nd October 1909?

(b) Will Government be pleased to enquire whether the incident referred to in the article occurred in the Sessions Court at Coimbatore or where, and if the procedure described was really adopted?

(c) If so, will Government be pleased to take suitable notice of the action of the Judge concerned?

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer :—

Answer.—In the absence of any information as to the time and place of the alleged incident the Government do not think it necessary to make the inquiry suggested.

The Hon'ble Mr. KESAVA PILLAI :—

1097 [LIV] *Question.*—(a) Is it a fact that the building in which the Victoria Gosha Hospital of Vizagapatam is located was the gift of the late Maharaja Sir Gajapati Rao, K.C.I.E., made in order to perpetuate the name of the late Queen-Empress Victoria?

(b) Is it a fact that the Maharaja contributed annually towards its maintenance during his life-time Rs. 2,400, an amount equal to that contributed by the District Board of Vizagapatam?

(c) Is it a fact that the Maharaja made a special provision for this charity in his will?

(d) Is it a fact that the District Board is receiving the contribution from the Trustee appointed under the will?

(e) Are the Government aware that the District Board of Vizagapatam resolved on 19th August 1909 to close the said Victoria Gosha Hospital shortly and they gave notice to the lady apothecary in charge and her staff that their services would not be required after 31st March 1910?

(f) Have the Government received a memorial from the Honourable the Raja of Kurupam as the Trustee of the late Maharaja's charities protesting against the action of the District Board?

(g) In view of the increasing usefulness of the institution as testified to by successive Surgeons-General and other administrative authorities that visited the hospital during the last 17 years, will the Government be pleased to order its continuance and improve it by carrying out the suggestion made by the Surgeon-General in his Inspection Notes, dated 17th October 1908?

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer :—

Answer.—(a) & (f) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) The contribution given by the donor amounted to a sum equal to the pay and charge allowance of the female apothecary and the pay of the female hospital assistant attached to the hospital.

(c) The Government have no information on the subject.

(d) The District Board is receiving the contribution and this is shown in the Board's accounts as being paid by Lady Gajapati Rao.

(e) From a copy of the resolution of the District Board submitted to Government by the Hon'ble Raja V. Virabhadra Razu, it appears that the District Board considers that it will probably be necessary to close the institution and that it has called for further information before a definite decision is arrived at pending which it has given notice to the staff that their services will be dispensed with after 31st March 1910.

(g) The Government will give due consideration to the matter on receipt of proposals from the District Board.

The Hon'ble Mr. KESAVA PILLAI :—

1098 [LV] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state the new scale of diet introduced by the Inspector-General of Prisons in this Presidency as an experiment in the Trichinopoly, Cannanore and Rajahmundry Jails?

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to question No. XXXII *.

* 1075 supra p. 386.

The Hon'ble Mr. KESAVA PILLAI :—

1099 [LVI] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to direct Superintendents to show in the annual reports the dietary followed and also the deviation, however slight, from prescribed dietary, as laid down in the Jail Manual, and also direct the Inspector-General to embody such information in statement VIII of the Jail Administration Report of the Presidency ?

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer :—

Answer.—The normal scales of diet will be found in statement VIII appended to the Jail Administration Report, which also shows punishment diet scales and the maximum period for which such may be prescribed. An experimental scale of diet was in force in certain prisons during the year. The Inspector-General will be requested to give full particulars as regards this in his next administration report.

The Hon'ble Mr. KESAVA PILLAI :—

1100 [LVII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to consider the advisability of issuing rice-diet, as adopted in the prisons and jails in the Central Provinces and Bengal, to prisoners whose previous habits of life require such a concession, in view of the opinion of Dr. Macnamara, the Inspector-General of Prisons, in paragraph 45 of the Jail Administration Report of 1907 ?

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer :—

Answer.—In the scale of diet recently introduced, tentatively, in the Central Jails at Rajahmundry, Trichinopoly and Cannanore the quantity of rice has been increased. The Government have the question of jail diets generally under consideration and the Honourable Member's suggestion will be noted.

The Hon'ble Mr. KESAVA PILLAI :—

1101 [LVIII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to order the increase of penal diet to 16 oz. rice or flour with full allowance of salt as obtains in the jails of other provinces, and also reduce the duration of the "penal diet" punishment at a time to 72 hours as in the United Provinces ?

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer :—

Answer.—As mentioned in the answer to question No. LVII*, the question of jail diets is under consideration and the Honourable Member's suggestion will be referred to the Inspector-General of Prisons for report. The Government are not at present prepared to reduce the period of four days during which "penal diet" may be imposed on a convict. A similar period is prescribed in Bombay, Bengal and the Central Provinces.

* 1100

The Hon'ble Mr. KESAVA PILLAI :—

1102 [LIX] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that penal diet punishments in 1908 inflicted in all the 16 Central and District Jails amounted to 176, out of which Vellore alone counted 91 ?

(*b*) What was the number of penal diets inflicted in the Vellore Jail for offences relating to work alone ?

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer :—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer to this part of the question is in the affirmative.

(*b*) Information on the point is not available, but will be called for.

The Hon'ble Mr. KESAVA PILLAI :—

1103 [LX] *Question.*—Has the attention of the Government been drawn to an article in the *Indian Patriot* of the 10th August under "Flogging for prison "offences in the Vellore Jail" ?

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer :—

Answer.—The attention of Government has been drawn to the article referred to by the Honourable Member. The Government are in possession of a report from the Inspector-General of Prisons on the number of corporal punishments inflicted in the Vellore Jail in 1908 and the matter is under consideration.

The Hon'ble Mr. KESAVA PILLAI :—

1104 [LXI] *Question.*—In view of the opinion of the penal experts as embodied in paragraph 21 of the Punjab Jail Administration Report, that the infliction of stripes should be reserved for active offences which are the outcome of depravity, viciousness or moral turpitude and that offences against work are passive, will the Government be pleased to issue necessary instructions in accordance therewith ?

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer :—

Answer.—The rules under the Prisons Act lay down that "as a general "principle corporal punishment shall only be resorted to as a last resource," and the Superintendent of the Prison, whenever a sentence of whipping is passed, is bound to state his reasons in the Punishment Book for considering that special kind of punishment necessary. The Government have recently drawn the attention of the Inspector-General of Prisons to the matter and do not think it necessary at present to issue any further orders on the subject.

The Hon'ble Mr. KESAVA PILLAI :—

1105 [LXII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state if the "cash earnings" and the "net profits" for 1902, 1903 and 1904 were not excessive compared to those made in 1908 in the Vellore Jail, and, if so, in what proportion respectively ?

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer :—

Answer.—The "cash earnings" and "net profits" in the Vellore Central Jail for the years 1902, 1903, 1904 and 1908 were as follows :—

	Cash earnings.			Net profits.		
	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
1902	5,364	14	0	18,284	1	0
1903	23,571	15	0	15,135	10	0
1904	16,489	2	0	12,192	5	0
1908	1,420	3	0	15,834	15	0

The meaning of these figures is explained in statements XII and XII-A appended to the Report on the Administration of Jails to which the Honourable Member's attention is invited.

The Hon'ble Mr. KESAVA PILLAI :—

1106 [LXIII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to order that eating and drinking vessels which have been used even by caste men shall not be subsequently issued to caste prisoners ?

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer :—

Answer.—Rule No. 469 of the Jail Manual lays down that vessels which have been used by non-caste men shall not be subsequently issued to caste prisoners, and that brass pots may be specially provided for Brahman convicts. The Government consider that the existing practice sufficiently meets legitimate caste susceptibilities.

The Hon'ble Mr. KESAVA PILLAI :—

1107 [LXIV] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that part-worn clothing is issued to prisoners on their admission ?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased, in view of ensuring sanitation and health, to order issue of new suits to prisoners on their admission, at least to such of them as may deserve consideration on account of their previous habits of cleanliness?

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer :—

Answer.—(a) Under Rule 481 of the Jail Manual all Indian convicts are provided with two suits or two cloths according to sex. One of the suits or cloths is new, and both may be. If a part-worn suit or cloth is issued, it is in thoroughly serviceable order and has, in accordance with Rule 496, been boiled, washed and repaired.

(b) The Government see no reason to alter the existing rules.

The Hon'ble Mr. KESAVA PILLAI :—

1108 [LXV] *Question.*—(a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the evidence of Mr. Davis, the Jailor, in the proceedings against Surendranath Arya, prisoner in the Madras Penitentiary, in the Court of the Chief Presidency Magistrate that "three months' bar-fetters and nine days' remission" were awarded as punishment for making misrepresentations to the official and non-official visitors against Jail authorities?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state if the Superintendent has the power of inflicting punishment on a prisoner when he considers any representations made against him by that prisoner is false?

(c) If so, will the Government be pleased to invest some other authority with power to punish prisoners in case of such wilful misrepresentations?

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer :—

Answer.—(a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) The answer is in the affirmative. *Vide* sections 45 (14) and 46 of the Prisons Act, 1894.

(c) The Government will consider whether it is advisable to issue any instructions limiting the authority of a Jail Superintendent to inflict punishments for false accusations made against himself.

The Hon'ble Mr. KESAVA PILLAI :—

1109 [LXVI] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state the number of hours in a day during which the bar-fetters could be continuously inflicted on a prisoner and the number of months the Superintendent can continue such a punishment for a prison offence?

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer :—

Answer.—Bar-fetters may be imposed on a convict by the Superintendent of a jail for a period not exceeding six months as a maximum. There is no limit to the number of hours in a day during which these fetters may be imposed (rule 401 of the Jail Manual). But under rule 402 a period of at least ten days must elapse after fetters have been imposed for a jail offence before they can be imposed again for a second offence.

The Hon'ble Mr. KESAVA PILLAI :—

1110 [LXVII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state if the Government have in view to provide measures for segregation of first offenders and casual criminals from habituals?

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer :—

Answer.—The separation of habitual criminals from others is provided for in rule 295 of the Jail Manual. The Government have recently issued orders to Magistrates to ensure a better working of the rules regarding the classification of habituals. They have also recently sanctioned a scheme for the concentration of adolescent prisoners in a special jail. Further, the present policy is to substitute separate cellular accommodation for wards or barracks.

CONTENTS TO INDEX.

VOLUME II.

DEPARTMENTS.	PAGE
Ecclesiastical	1
Educational	1–6
Financial	6 & 7
Judicial	7–16
Legislative	16
Local and Municipal—	
Local	17–20
Municipal	20–25
Plague	25 & 26
Marine	26 & 27
Pension	27
Political	27
Public	27–34
Public Works	34 & 35
Public Works (Irrigation)	35–38
Public Works (Railways)	38–41
Revenue	41–68

NOTE.—The references in the last column, which are to questions in Volume I, are entered for convenience of reference only and are not necessarily exhaustive.

INDEX.

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
ECCLESIASTICAL DEPARTMENT.			
Church of St. Peter at Rayapuram.—Rights of the boatmen and boat-owners called Kurukulavamsa in the administration of the church and its fund.	267	761	
EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.			
Agricultural College, Saidapet.—Cost of maintenance of the — from the date of its establishment. ——— Number of students who were trained in the — and who have taken to agriculture for a calling.	175	503	385
Agricultural education.—Compulsory instruction in the elements of agriculture in primary and secondary schools.	77 143	214 391	
Agricultural studies.—See *Special Test examinations.*			
Aluminium.—Balance sheet and profit and loss account of the — department, School of Arts.	75	211	
——— Discontinuance of the manufacture of aluminium-ware at the School of Arts.	61	167	
——— Lowest net price at which the — goods of the School of Arts are sold.	61	168	
Appointments.—See *Public Service.*			
Arcot Mission College, Vellore.—See *Grant.*			
Ayurvedic system of Medicine.—See *Medical College.*			
Backward Classes.—See *Educational Rules.*			
Bala Bharata Samiti, Rajahmundry	335	941	
Bible Teaching.—See *Religious Instruction.*			
Biology Professor.—See *Ramunni Menon, Mr.*			
Books and Publications.—Government grant for printing Dr. Pope's Tamil Lexicon in England.	274	775	
Calicut School of Commerce.—See *School of Commerce, Calicut.*			
Callaghan, Mr. H. W.—See *Provincial Educational Service.*			
Canvassing.—See *University Elections.*			
Clay modelling.—See *Village Schools.*			
Congress.—Serving of students as volunteers in the Indian National —.	124	339	
——— See *Law College.*			
Convict-teacher.—See *Grant.*			
Drawing.—See *Village Schools.*			
Education.—See *Agricultural education, Primary education, Sanskrit education, Secondary education* and *Technical and Industrial education.*			
Educational Conference.—See *Provident Funds.*			
Educational Policy.—Discontinuance of the use of English as a medium of instruction in other subjects in lower secondary schools.	203	586	
——— Steps taken by the Local Government to remedy the defects pointed out by the Government of India in the educational administration in the presidency.	61	166	
Educational Rules.—Modification of the rule limiting the class in a secondary school which pupils leaving an elementary school can join.	279	792	
——— Recognition of Uriyas as a backward class for the purposes of the Educational Rules.	43 304	111 863	
Elementary Schools.—See *Primary education.*			
Endowments.—See *Sanskrit education.*			
Engineering College.—See *Public Service, Sanitary Science,* and *Uriyas.*			
English as a medium of instruction.—See *Educational Policy.*			
Fees.—See *Law College, L. T. degree examination, Special Test examination frauds* and *Uriyas.*			
Girls' Schools.—See *Grant-in-aid.*			
Government College, Rajahmundry.—See *Rajahmundry College.*			

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Grant.—Employment of a convicted person as a teacher in the Arcot Mission College at Vellore and drawing of grant from the municipality of Vellore.	109	295	
——— See *Books and Publications*, *Primary education* and *Sanskrit education*.			
Grant-in-aid.—Freedom in the matter of religious instruction as a condition of — to educational institutions.	282	799	
——— Modification of rules regulating — to girls' schools and to boys' schools where girls are taught.	388	1080	
——— Payment by the Municipal Council, Salem, of — to the London Mission school at that station.	36	92	
High Schools.—See *Secondary education.*			
Hospital Assistants' examination.—Desirability of making the examination partly written and partly *vivâ voce* and of placing it on a footing of equality with other examinations, medical or otherwise.	93 107	264 291	
——— Differentiation in the treatment of certain failed students from Mysore and Tanjore with regard to their attending another year's course.	93	264	
———Revision of the rules to enable all failed students to appear again for the examination after a further course of training in the final year subjects.	87 93 107	247 264 291	
Indian National Congress.—See *Congress.*			
Industrial Education.—See *Technical and Industrial education.*			
Inspectors of Sanskrit Schools.—See *Sanskrit education.*			
Johnston of Carnsalloch Scholarship.—See *Scholarships.*			
Law College.—Enhancement of the fees payable by students in the — as compared with the scale in Bombay.	35	89	
——— Issue of a circular by the Principal, —, prohibiting students from taking part in movements directed against the authority of Government.	124	339	
——— Proposals for the reorganization of the — ..	50	136	
——— Refusal to admit into the first B.L. class students who had passed in the English and Science branches of the B.A. degree examination.	79	223	557
——— See *Uriyas.*			
Leaving Certificates.—See *Educational Rules.*			
London Mission High School, Erode.—See *Recognition of Schools.*			
London Mission School, Salem.—See *Grant-in-aid.*			
Lower Secondary Scholarships.—See *Scholarships.*			
Lower Secondary schools.—See *Educational Policy.*			
L.T. degree examination.—Refund of the portion of the fee paid for the practical part of the examination to a student who fails in the theoretical part.	167	479	
Madrasa-i-Azam.—Supersession of Muhammadans in filling up the posts of science and mathematics masters of the school.	272	769	
——— See *Provincial Educational Service.*			
Mahajana High School, Erode.	197	569	
Mahajana Sabha, Madras—See *Ramunni Menon, Mr.*			
Medical College—Establishment of a chair in the — for teaching ayurvedic system of medicine.	371	1032	531
——— See *Sanitary Science* and *Uriyas.*			
Medical Education.—See *Hospital Assistants' examination.*			
Medical School.—Reorganization of the school for hospital assistants.	371	1032	
——— See *Hospital Assistants' examination.*			
Medium of Instruction.—See *Educational Policy.*			
Metal Industries.—See *Technical and Industrial education.*			
Minakshisundaram Aiyar.—See *Public Service.*			
Mission School, Negapatam.—See *Religious Instruction.*			
Medical Students.—See *Hospital Assistants' examination.*			
Model High Schools—See *Secondary education.*			

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Model Primary Schools.—See *Primary education*			
Muhammadans in Public Service.—See *Madrasa-i-Azam* and *Public Service.*			
National High School, Negapatam.—See *Recognition of Schools.*			
Panchama Pupils.—Memorial of the Pariah Mahajana Sabha, Madras, about the refusal of school authorities to admit Panchama pupils in institutions in Madras on favourable rates of school fees.	32	80	
Pandits.—See *Sanskrit education.*			
Pariah Mahajana Sabha, Madras.—See *Panchama Pupils.*			
Physical Science.—See *Rajahmundry College.*			
Politics and Students.—See *Congress* and *Law College.*			
Pope's Tamil Lexicon.—See *Books and Publications.*			
Presidency College.—See *Ran unni Menon, Mr.*			
Primary education.—Abandonment of the system of establishing model primary schools.	152	419	
——— Causes of the decrease in the number of primary schools during 1900–1901.	68 98 263	186 276 749	
———Cost of elementary schools to local boards and municipalities.	279	792	
——— Formation of a separate school fund out of the education grant on behalf of —.	263	749	361
——— Improvement of — in the village schools of this Presidency on the lines suggested by Dr. A. W. Thompson of the Poona College of Science.	73	205	
——— Number of elementary or primary schools newly opened in 1906–1907 and to be opened in 1907–1908 and direct cost thereof.	316	894	
——— Number of primary schools aided by municipalities and local boards and classed as elementary and secondary.	279	792	
——— Number of schools newly opened in 1907–1908 and direct cost of their maintenance. ——— Number of schools to be opened in 1908–1909 ..	342	956	
——— Opening of new elementary schools	387	1078	
——— Proposals for the provision of primary schools in such villages as are without them.	316	894	
——— Provision of funds for paying results and fixed grants to primary schools in full.	68	186	
——— Steps for the extension of — in the presidency ..	98 263	276 749	
——— See *Agricultural education, Supervisors of primary schools* and *Village Schools.*			
Primary schools.—See *Agricultural education* and *Primary education.*			
Prince of Wales' Medical School, Tanjore.—See *Hospital Assistants' examination.*			
Provident Funds.—Proposal of the Madras Educational Conference to establish a provident fund for teachers in schools under private management.	291	825	
Provincial Educational Service.—Appointment of Mr. H. W. Callaghan, a Eurasian biology graduate, to a vacancy in the last grade of the service as science master of Madrasa-i-Azam.	272	769	889
Provincialization of Supervisors.—See *Supervisors of primary schools.*			
Public Service.—Issue of instructions to heads of departments to see that claims of qualified Muhammadans are not affected.	272	769	370
——— Prohibition by Government of the re-employment in Government service of P. S. Minakshisundaram Aiyar, second assistant instructor in drawing, College of Engineering.	241	688	
Rajahmundry College.—Abolition of the Physical Science chair in the college.	174	499	

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Rajahmundry College.—Conduct of students	324 334	916 941	
Ramunni Menon, Mr.—Memorial to the Secretary of State from the Madras Mahajana Sabha for the confirmation of Mr. Ramunni Menon as professor of biology in the Presidency College.	164	460, 461	
Recognition of Schools.—Recognition of the London Mission High School at Erode.	197	569	373
——— Refusal of the Director of Public Instruction to recognize the new National High School, Negapatam.	183 186	526 534	786
Re-employment in Government service.—See *Public Service.*			
Reformatory School.—Submission to the Government of India of a scheme for the creation of reformatory schools in this presidency and establishment of a reformatory school at Rajahmundry.	140	380	
Refund of fees —See *L. T. degree examination* and *Special Test examinaion frauds.*			
Religious Instruction.—Compulsory Bible teaching in a Mission school at Negapatam. ——— Policy of Government to secure a religious element in education.	183	526	
——— Prohibition against the use of local fund and municipal school-rooms for religious lectures or studies out of school hours.	365	1019	
——— See *Grant-in-aid.*			
Reorganization.—See *Law College.*			
Results Grants.—See *Primary education.*			
Revenue Test Examination.—See *Special Test examinations.*			
Rules.—See *Educational Rules* and *Scholarships.*			
Rustication of Students.—See *Rajahmundry College.*			
Salem Municipality.—See *Grant-in-aid.*			
Sanitary Science.—Provision of practical training in — for students who have passed through the medical and engineering colleges for employment of such persons as sanitary surveyors by local boards and district municipalities as in Bombay.	73	206	765
Sanskrit Education.—Appointment of Inspector of Sanskrit schools.	173	495	
——— Improvement of indigenous Sanskrit schools since the appointment of the special Sub-Assistant Inspector of Sanskrit schools.	172	494	
——— Inspection of teaching of Sanskrit in schools and colleges wherein the English language is taught.	173	496	
——— Inspectors of Sanskrit schools	366	1021	
——— Institution of a recognised examination or other test to determine the eligibility of pandits for grants.	173	497	
——— Payment of increased grants to Sanskrit schools. ——— Statistics as to number, strength, grant, etc., of Sanskrit schools.	366	1021	
——— Utilization for the spread of — of several endowments made in the district of Tanjore for that purpose without diverting them for other objects.	172	493	952
Scholarships.—Reduction of the Johnston of Carnsalloch scholarship from Rs. 20 to Rs. 10 a month.	156	432	
——— Revision of the rules and conditions in regard to the award of the lower secondary —.	43	112	
——— See *Technical and Industrial education.*			
Scholars in Schools.—Number of scholars in public and private institutions in this Presidency as compared with other provinces except Bengal.	330	935	
School Fees.—See *Law College* and *Uriyas.*			

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
School of Arts.—See *Aluminium.*			
School of Commerce, Calicut.—Removal of the — from Calicut to Negapatam.	50	135	
School Fund.—See *Primary education.*			
School-rooms.—See *Religious Instruction.*			
Secondary education.—Establishment of model high schools ..	387	1077	
——— Improvement of — in the village schools of this presidency on the lines suggested by Dr. Thompson of the Poona College of Science.	73	205	
——— Lower— / Upper— See *Agricultural education, Educational Policy, Educational Rules* and *Scholarships.*			
Special Test examinations.—Complaints regarding the setting and valuation of papers, and other matters connected with these examinations and revision of the regulations on the subject.	297	843	
——— Holding of the examinations in May 1904	169	487	
——— Inclusion of a course of agricultural studies among the subjects prescribed for the Revenue test examination.	304	862	
Special Test examination frauds of 1903.—Publication of papers relating to the enquiry into the —, the treatment to be accorded to innocent candidates and refund of fees to candidates for the examinations of 1903.	166 169	475, 476, 487	
Sub-Assistant Inspector of Sanskrit Schools.—See *Sanskrit education.*			
Sub-Assistant Inspectors of Schools.—Mileage and travelling allowance of —.	113	308	
Supervisors of primary schools.—Effect of the provincialization of — in local fund and municipal service on the existing staff.	364	1014	
Tamil Lexicon.—See *Books and Publications.*			
Tanjore Medical School.—See *Hospital Assistants' examination.*			
Teachers.—See *Grant, Provident Funds, Uriya Schools* and *Women teachers.*			
Technical and Industrial education.—Establishment of an institute of experiment in the metal industries of Madras.	317	896	
——— Establishment of a technical college in the presidency.	293	829	
——— Proposals of this Government to the Government of India regarding the system of — to be introduced into this Presidency.	258 281 293	730 795 829	
——— Report on technical education in Bombay by Dr. Arthur W. Thompson of the Poona College of Science.	73	205	
——— The sending annually at Government expense of some of the best students of the Madras University to Europe and America to receive special training in agricultural, industrial and other technical branches as is done in Mysore and Japan.	84	238	
——— See *Village Schools.*			
Technical College.—See *Technical and Industrial education.*			
Technical Scholarship.—See *Technical and Industrial education.*			
Thompson, Dr. A. W.—See *Technical and Industrial education* and *Primary education.*			
Training of teachers.—See *Women teachers.*			
Training Schools.—See *Technical and Industrial education.*			
Travelling Allowance.—See *Sub-Assistant Inspectors of Schools.*			
University Elections.—Complaints of improper canvassing and other irregularities in elections.	182 200	523 574	
——— Publication of the results of the elections as was done in Bombay and Calcutta as soon as the poll took place.	182	523	
Uriyas.—Levy of half fees from — in the Law, Medical and Engineering colleges as in the case of Muhammadans.	43	111	
——— See *Educational Rules.*			

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Uriya Schools.—Improvement of the education of Uriya children by employing in the — of Ganjám and Vizagapatam Uriya-knowing men of the Calcutta University instead of Telugu teachers who do not know Uriya.	285	807	
Vande Mataram badges.—See *Rajahmundry College.*			
Vellore Municipality.—See *Grant.*			
Vernaculars. Use of — as medium of instruction.—See *Educational Policy.*			
Village Schools.—Introduction as a tentative measure of the subjects of drawing, clay modelling and woodwork in important —.	73	205	
Volunteers.—See *Congress.*			
Women teachers.—Number, etc., of — under training	387	1079	
Woodwork.—See *Village Schools.*			

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Allowances.—Grievances of low-paid clerks in regard to acting appointments and denial of concessions to them in the matter of privilege leave —.	276	779	
——— See *Compensation for dearness of food, House-rent Allowance, Local Allowance* and *Superannuation Allowances.*			
Books and Publications.—Principle on which prices of publications of Government Press are fixed and issue of such publications from the Government Press free of cost or at nominal price.	235	670	
Compensation for dearness of food.—Extension of the powers of Local Government in regard to the grant of grain compensation allowance to clerks drawing salaries from Rs. 16 to Rs. 30 and the grant of such allowances.	276 339 346	780 949 968	
——— Extension of the grant of — to a further period ..	364	1016	
——— Grant of allowances for dearness of food to local board and municipal servants with aid from provincial funds.	339 354	949 985	
——— Grant of — to the lascars in the office of the Inspector-General of Police.	301	855	
——— Grant of special allowances on account of rise in the prices of necessaries of life in Madras City and in the mufassal.	307 329	874 932	
Grain Compensation Allowance.—See *Compensation for dearness of food.*			
House-rent Allowance.—To clerks and menials in public offices in the city of Madras.	374	1042 1043	
Increase of pay.—Application of the low-paid clerks of the Stationery office for —.	296 306	839 870	
——— Grant of — to the low-paid clerks in the offices under the Collector of Madras and the Collector of Sea Customs and in the civil and judicial departments of the Salem district.	285 347	810 970	
——— To low-paid Government servants	276 302 346 347 374	781 858 969 970 1041	
Local Allowance.—To clerks and menials in public offices in the city of Madras.	365 374	1017 1042 1043	
Local Government's powers.—See *Compensation for dearness of food.*			
Low-paid Clerks.—See *Allowances, Increase of Pay, House-rent Allowance* and *Local Allowance.*			
Post Offices.—Establishment of — in such ryotwari villages as have a population of 1,000 and above.	139	379	

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Post Office Savings Bank.—Raising of the maximum as to deposits in the —.	287	815	
Privilege Leave Allowances.—See *Allowances.*			
Superannuation Allowances.—Increase in the — between 1890–1891 and 1907–1908 and the maximum limit thereof.	316	892	

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Accidents.—Fire accident at Chidambaram	35	90	
——— Fire accident at Ráméswaram	48	131	
Advocate-General.—See *Criminal Cases* and *Prosecutions.*			
Age limit.—See *Judicial Service.*			
Agency Courts.—Delay in the disposal of suits in —	389	1085	
——— Establishment of permanent — in one or more centres.	389	1085	
Agency Tracts.—Allowance, etc., of persons kept under personal restraint in —.	359 361 366	1002 1004 1020	
——— Alteration of the limits of the — in the Vizagapatam district by including the civilized parts of the Agency in the ordinary portion.	261	741	
——— Desirability of requiring deputy tahsildars who exercise civil and criminal jurisdiction in the — to pass the Civil Judicial test also.	305	864	
——— Establishment of a separate district munsif's court at Gunupur and the conferring of civil jurisdiction on the ordinary tribunals in respect of the civilized portions of the —.	261	742	648
——— Improvement of roads in the Ganjám and Vizagapatam Agencies.	384	1071	
——— See *Fire-arms.*			
Allowances.—To Mrs. Hoy, widow of a police serjeant who died of cholera in the Tinnevelly riots.	392	1092	740
——— See *Agency Tracts, Grain Compensation Allowance, Personal Allowance, Subordinate Judges* and *Wynaad Allowance.*			
Annual Reports.—See *Diet* and *Homicide.*			
Appeal against acquittal.—In the case of Kaveriammal against W. H. Boyd, a railway traffic inspector, for assault in the railway train.	338 346	945 967	
——— In the case of Rangaiya Gounden *v.* Second Lieut. Watts for mischief and house-breaking.	338 346	946 967	
Appeals.—See *Civil Justice Report, District Court—Bellary, High Court* and *Small Causes Court, Madras.*			
Arms Act, 1878.—Irregularities in the administration of the — by Mr. B. Macleod as Collector of Cuddapah and details of the enquiry made by the Hon'ble Mr. C. J. Weir into them.	217	620–622	228
——— Number of licenses issued under the Act in the districts of Bellary, Anantapur and Cuddapah in 1903 to 1905.	239	679	
——— Number of persons holding licenses in Ganjám, Vizagapatam, South Canara and Malabar districts during 1905–1907.	369	1026	
Assault.—Assault on an employé of the Madras Railway at Rajahmundry.	332 343	937 958	
——— See *Appeal against acquittal* and *Cocanada Assault Case.*			
Attestation of Vakalats.—See *Vakalats.*			
Bar.—Treatment of members of the — by the Sessions Judge of Kurnool.	298	848	923
Bar-fetters.—See *Jails.*			
Bench Courts.—See *Village Courts.*			
Borstal system.—See *Jails.*			

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Boyd, Mr. W. H.—See *Appeal against acquittal.*			
Cannanore Central Jail.—Printing department of —	307	872	
Cantonment Magistrate's Court, St. Thomas' Mount.—Cost of maintenance of —. ——— Distribution of the work of — among ordinary courts. ——— Reasons for the continuance of this court when similar courts at Trichinopoly and other places have been abolished.	7	19	
Caste Prisoners.—See *Jails.*			
Casual Criminals.—See *Jails.*			
Central Records Office.—See *Registration Department.*			
Chidambaram fire accident.—See *Accident.*			
City Civil Court, Madras.—See *High Court.*			
Civil Courts.—See *Agency Tracts, Civil Justice Report, Copying Department, Process Fees, Registration Department* and *Village Courts.*			
Civil Courts Act (III), 1873.—Amendment of the — so as to make the powers of Munsifs and Sub-Judges over their subordinates effective.	312	883	
Civil Jail, Madras.—Conduct of Major Fearnside, the Superintendent, in connection with the irregularities.	150	416	
	177	509	
——— Irregularities in regard to the supply of food to Hindu and Muhammadan debtors and the curtailment of visiting hours allowed to them.	149	411	
	150	412-416	
Civil Judicial Test.—See *Agency Tracts.*			
Civil Justice Report.—Addition of a statement to the — showing suits disposed of by village courts and the village munsifs.	8	21	
——— Supply in the — of information regarding certain appeals and receipts and charges of civil courts.	209	602	
Civil litigation.—See *Litigation.*			
Civil Rules of Practice.—See *Registration Department.*			
Clothing of Prisoners.—See *Jails.*			
Cocanada Assault Case.—Notice of the conduct of Captain Kemp who assaulted K. Krishna Rao of Cocanada.	322	908	
——— Notice of the conduct of the medical men (M.R.Ry. Sankarasubbayya Pillai, etc.) who failed to render help to K. Krishna Rao.	333	938	
Cocanada Riot Case	334	939	347, 348, 350
Coimbatore District Court.—See *Subordinate Judges' Courts.*			
Conduct of Public Servants.—See *Appeal against acquittal, Arms Act,* 1878, *Bar, Civil Jail, Madras, Cocanada Assault Case, Criminal Cases, Jurors, Kotappakonda Riots, Police, Sessions Trials, Sub-Registrars* and *Sullivan, Mr.*			
Convicts.—See *Diet, Flogging* and *Jails.*			
Copying Department.—Grant of pension and leave privileges to copyists in district courts.	184	528	
——— Reduction of charges for grant of copies to parties or increase of the rate of remuneration to copyists in civil courts.	297	842	
Copyists.—See *Copying Department.*			
Courts.—See *Agency Courts, Agency Tracts, Civil Justice Report, Copying Department, District Munsifs' Courts, High Court, Interpreters, Process Fees, Registration Department* and *Village Courts.*			
Crimes.—Dacoities in Chingleput and North Arcot districts since April 1902.	141	388	235
——— Increase in dacoities in Nellore and Cuddapah ..	234	669	
——— Murders and dacoities committed by the gang known as "Kulangolan brothers" in the Salem district.	134	367	
——— Statistics as to dacoities and robberies in Salem district and suppression thereof.	89	253	

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Crimes.—Torch light dacoities in Chingleput and North Arcot districts and the trial of the offenders.	120 234	327 669	
Criminal cases.—Committal of wrong persons by an error in the revision of the proceedings of a second-class magistrate by the District Magistrate of Coimbatore.	228	654	
——— Conduct of the sub-magistrate of Tuticorin in convicting an accused person without giving him opportunity to defend himself and adduce evidence.	294	833	
——— Death of a child of a Tiyya woman by the treading of a soldier at Cannanore.	240	682	
——— Delay in the disposal of the Guzerati defamation case.	381	1,063	
——— Enquiry into the suspicious death of a prisoner at the police station in Tanjore City.	210	604	
——— Irregularity in carrying out the sentences of imprisonment passed on two convicts in Malabar.	269	764	
——— Rules regulating the appearance of the Advocate-General in criminal cases of an original, appellate or revisional nature.	74	209	
——— See *Appeal against acquittal, High Court* and *Police.*			
Criminal Procedure Code.—See *Magisterial Powers* and *Police.*			
Cuddapah.—See *Muharram (Cuddapah).*			
Dacoities.—See *Crimes.*			
Dean, Mr. E. C.—See *Jail Department.*			
Death Benefit Funds.—See *Provident Funds.*			
Deaths.—See *Criminal Cases.*			
Debtors.—See *Civil Jail, Madras.*			
Defamation case, Guzerati	381	1063	
Deputy Registrar.—See *High Court.*			
Deputy Tahsildars.—See *Agency Tracts.*			
Destruction of Records.—See *Records.*			
Detective Police.—See *Police.*			
Diet.—Increase in penal diet punishments in the Vellore jail.	395	1102	
——— Information in annual reports of dietary followed in jails.	386 395	1075 1099	
——— Introduction of a new scale of — in Trichinopoly, Cannanore and Rajahmundry jails.	394	1098	16 712
——— Issue of rice diet to prisoners	395	1100	
——— Punishment of penal — in jails	395	1101 1102	
——— See *Vellore Jail.*			
Dismissal of public servants.—See *Police* and *Sub-Registrar.*			
Distribution of Work.—See *Judicial Work.*			
District Court, Bellary.—Extension of service to the sarishtadar of the court.	233	666	
——— Pendency of suits and appeals in —	353	984	
——— *Coimbatore.*—See *Subordinate Judges' Courts.*			
——— See *Copying Department* and *Process Fees.*	240	683	
District Judges.—Appointment of an Indian as District Judge in the place of Mr. Venkataramana Pai instead of a member of the Indian Civil Service.	247	702	
——— Scheme for the grading of — and for training junior civilians in judicial work.	257	728	123, 253, 616
——— See *Judicial Service.*			
District Munsifs.—Acting promotions to — when leave is granted to officers in the higher grades or when temporary sub-courts are established.	83 84 390	233 237 1086	
——— Average rate of mortality and duration of life among —.	313	885	
——— Disproportion in the number of — as between Madras and Bengal.			
——— Improvement of the pay of — and increase of their number.	234 313	668 885	

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
District Munsifs.—See *Civil Courts Act*, *Evidence*, *Judicial Service*, *Process Fees* and *Process-servers.*			
District Munsif's Court.—Alteration of the period of midsummer vacation of — from six weeks to two months.	242	690	223, 575 618, 836
——— Establishment of an additional — at Tellicherry or elsewhere in Malabar.	161	449	
——— Establishment of the additional —, Tinnevelly, as a permanent Court at Nángunéri.	245 298	697 846	962
——— Increase in the number of suits instituted in — and in the net revenue derived therefrom.	313	885	
——— Removal of the — from Udipi in South Canara to some other district.	47	125	
——— Retention of the permanent and additional —Tinnevelly, at Kokkarakulam.	245	697	
——— Transfer of the — at Vayittri to a more central place in Wynaad.	178	512	962
——— See *Agency Tracts*			
Divisional Magistrates.—See *Evidence.*			
Encumbrance Certificate.—See *Registration Department.*			
Enquiries into the conduct of public servants.	376	1050	
Evidence.—Practice of clerks recording — where divisional magistrates, munsifs and sub-judges are not authorized to record evidence in English.	248	704	
Explosives.—Imposition of restrictions on the sale of explosive ingredients of the bomb.	379	1056	
Extension of Service.—See *District Court—Bellary* and *Fifty-five years' rule.*			
Fearnside, Major C. F.—See *Civil Jail, Madras.*			
Fees.—See *Copying Department*, *High Court* and *Process Fees.*			
Fernandez, Mr. J. C.—See *Subordinate Judges.*			
Festivals.—See *Muharram (Cuddapah.)*			
Fifty-five years' rule.—Extension of service to sub-judges and other officers who have passed fifty-five years of age.	191	5[illegible]4	
Fines.—Excess of the amount of magisterial — imposed in the Madras Presidency as compared with other provinces.	299	851	
——— Increase in pound — in Trichinopoly district.	298	847	
Fire accident.—See *Accidents*			
Fire-arms.—Licenses for — issued in Malabar and the Agency tracts during 1906–07 to 1908–09.	386	1073	
First offenders.—See *Jails.*			
Flogging.—Discontinuance of — for offences in jails	396	1104	
——— Of a convict in the Penitentiary, Madras, for the technical jail offence of being in possession of a small quantity of snuff.	136 151	374 417	66
——— Of convicts for prison offences in Vellore jail ..	395	1103	
Food-supply to debtors.—See *Civil Jail, Madras.*			
Full bench decisions.—See *Small Cause Court, Madras.*			
Gibbs, Mr.—See *Personal Allowance.*			
Grade Promotions.—See *District Munsifs* and *Subordinate Judges.*			
Grading of District Judges.—See *District Judges.*			
Grain Compensation Allowance.—Grant of — of one rupee each *per mensem* to the lascars of the office of the Inspector-General of Police.	301	855	
Guzerati Defamation case	381	1063	
Habitual offenders.—See *Jails.*			
Hand-cuffs.—See *Police*	179	515	
Harikatha Kalakshepam.—See *Police*			
High Court.—Appeals (first and second) pending in the —. ——— Appointment of additional judges in the —.	242	690	163, 195 800
——— Diminution in the work of the — on the original side of — since the establishment of the City Civil Court in 1892 and abolition of the post of Deputy Registrar.	179	515	

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
High Court.—Hearing of civil appeals other than appeals relating to costs by a bench of two judges.	207	596	
——— Modification of the rules so as to secure to the appellant in criminal appeals a final hearing before two judges.			
——— Modification of the statute so as to admit of the permanent appointment of more Indians than one as — judges.	271	76;	163, 168, 195, 800
——— Permanent increase of judgeships in the — to seven.	271	766	
——— Power of a single judge to reject a criminal appeal in the admission court.	207	596	
——— Refusal of Government to give the Crown Prosecutor the services of a commissioned medical officer in the prosecution of Mr. Lee, Travancore planter, in the Sessions.	236	672	
——— Supersession of Mr. C. Sankaran Nayar at the filling up of vacancies in the — Judgeships.	271	766	859
——— Translation and printing fees levied in the —.	277	785	
——— See *Civil Justice Report* and *Law Reports*.	207	597, 598	504
Homicide.—Publication of reports and orders on cases of — ..	392	1090	
Honorary Magistrates.—See *Presidency Magistrates*.			
Honorary Village Munsifs.—See *Village Munsifs*.			
House-rent.—See *Police (Madras City)*.			
Hoy, Mrs.—See *Allowances*.			
Indian Law Reports.—See *Law Reports*.			
Inspector-General of Police office.—See *Grain Compensation Allowance* and *Personal Allowance*.			
Interpreters.—Qualifications and training of — appointed in courts of session and courts of European magistrates.	248	705	
Jail Administration Report.—See *Diet*.			
Jail Department.—Supersession of P. Vittal Rao by Mr. Marshall in the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. E. C. Dean, Jailor, Central Jail, Trichinopoly.	130	356	
Jail Manufacture.—Policy in regard to—	387	1076	
——— Profits from manufactures in Vellore Jail	386	1074	
Jails.—Bringing up of juvenile offenders in jails without the contamination of confirmed elderly criminals.	180	517	67, 203
——— Eating and drinking vessels for caste prisoners ..	396	1106	
——— Establishment of a special prison on the Borstal system for juveniles.	358	1001	67, 203
——— Establishment of libraries for the use of prisoners in — and penitentiaries.	10	28	
——— Experiments in industrial processes in —. ..	387	1076	
——— Infliction of bar-fetters on prisoners	397	1109	
——— Issue of part-worn clothing to prisoners on admission.	396	1107	
——— Limiting of the operations of the printing department in the Cannanore Central Jail to Government work.	307	872	
——— Power of superintendents to punish a prisoner for complaints against themselves.	397	1108	
——— Segregation of first offenders and casual criminals from habituals.	397	1110	
——— See *Civil Jail, Madras, Diet, Flogging* and *Vellore Jail*.			
Jallikattu.—Stoppage of the practice of — in the Madura district.	17	48	
Judges of High Court.—See *High Court*.			
Judicial Service.—Raising of the age limit to judicial appointments from thirty to thirty-five and corresponding alteration in the period of service qualifying for a full pension.	212	607	
——— Scheme for the improvement of the pay and prospects of district judges, district munsifs, sub-judges and sub-magistrates.	247	702	
Judicial Trials.—See *Evidence*.			

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Judicial Work.—Distribution of the civil and criminal work of the Anantapur and Bellary districts between the District and Sessions Judges of Bellary and Kurnool.	57	153	
——— — Publication of the scheme for the training of junior civilians in —.	257	728	123, 253, 409, 616, 872.
——— — See *District Judges.*			
Junior Civilians.—See *Judicial Work.*			
Jurisdiction.—See *Agency Tracts* and *Small Cause Jurisdiction.*			
Jurors.—Complaints as to the treatment of — by the Sessions Judge of Tanjore.	241	684	
Juvenile Offenders.—See *Jails.*			
Kaveriammal.—See *Appeal against acquittal.*			
Kemp, Captain.—See *Cocanada Assault Case.*			
Kotappakonda riots.—Observance of the Public Servants Enquiries Act 1850, in enquiry into the conduct of Mr. P. Kershasp and others in the —.	376	1050	438 513
Krishna Rao.—See *Cocanada Assault Case* and *Sub-Registrar.*			
Krishnaswami.—See *Police.*			
Kulangolon brothers.—See *Crimes.*			
Lala Lajput Rai, Mr. – Allowances to – and others placed under restraint.	366	1020	
Lascars.—See *Grain compensation allowance.*			
Law Reports.—Defects in the reporting of the Madras Series of Indian —.	247	703	
Lawyers.—See *Bar.*			
Lee, Mr.—See *High Court.*			
Legislation.—See *High Court, Places of Public Worship* and *Provident Funds.*			
Libraries.—See *Jails.*			
Licenses.—See *Arms Act,* 1878.			
Limits of Districts.—See *Agency Tracts.*			
Litigation.—Net saving from civil — in the district of North Malabar.	161	448	
Macleod, Mr. B.—See *Arms Act,* 1878, and *Muharram (Cuddapah).*			
Maddikera Murder Case.—See *Murder cases.*			
Magisterial Powers.—The conferring on second-class magistrates of powers under section 562 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.	211	606	
Magistrates.—See *Evidence, Fines, Magisterial Powers, Presidency Magistrates* and *Village Courts.*			
Malabar Compensation for Tenants' Improvements Act, 1889.—Preparation of tables of prices of products under —.	291	823	
Marshall, Mr.—See *Jail Department.*			
——— See *Village Courts.*			
Memorials.—See *Subordinate Judges' Courts* and *Transfer of Property Act.*			
Muhammadans.—See *Police (Madras City)* and *Small Causes Court.*			
Muharram (Cuddapah).—Prohibition by the District Magistrate of the celebration of the Sriramanavami festival by the Hindus in the town of Cuddapah with music.	157 218	435 623 624	14, 15, 102.
Murder Cases.—Acquittal by the High Court of the accused in the Ranga Reddi murder case and detection of the real culprits.	48	132	
——— Irregularities of the police and the taluk magistrate in the murder case against the village munsif, Maddikera.	167	478	
Music.—Prohibition of native or Hindu — in Cuddapah.	157 218	435 623 624	14, 15, 102.
——— Do. in Rajahmundry ..	318	899	
Night Watchmen.—See *Registration Department.*			

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Penal diet.—See *Diet.*			
Penitentiaries.—See *Jails.*			
Penitentiary, Madras.—See *Flogging.*			
Pension.—See *Copying Department.*			
Pensionable Service—See *Judicial Service.*			
Personal Allowance.—Grant of a — of Rs. 25 to Mr. Gibbs, storekeeper in the office of the Inspector-General of Police.	301	854	
Personal restraint.—See *Agency Tracts.*			
Places of Public Worship.—Passing of a law requiring sanction of Government for the use of a new place as a place of religious worship, and for procession or other demonstration, on the lines of the regulations in force in Travancore and Cochin on the subject.	188	545	
Planters Labour Act.—The working of the Act and areas in which it is in force.	135	369	
Police.—Conduct of a station-house officer and police constables in Anantapur district in hand-cuffing the reddi and karnam of Morsalapalli when taking them to the police station.	209	603	442, 513
——— Conduct of the — and sub-magistrate in connection with the remand in the Kálahasti sub-jail of a respectable person on a charge of theft.	86 154	244 427	
——— Conduct of the — in connection with the alleged murder of a schoolmaster by nine Pallas of Mannadimangalam, Madura district.	110 154	297 428	
——— Departmental orders of the Inspector-General of Police for a stricter working of the security sections of the Criminal Procedure Code.	86	243	914
——— Dismissal of Krishnaswami, station-house officer of Mailavaram, Kistna district, and failure to adopt the prescribed procedure therein.	107 114	290 309	
———Dispersal of a harikatha kalakshepam in Cocanada by the Assistant Superintendent of Police.	334	940	
——— Formation of a separate detective department of —.	{ 62 66	172 180	
——— Increase of — force in Chingleput and North Arcot districts.	141	388	
——— Stopping of a harikatha kalakshepam by the — ..	392	1091	
——— (*Madras City*).—Grant of house-rent to Indian Sub-Inspectors as in the case of European Sub-Inspectors.	268	762	} 812, 862
——— Introduction of more Indian element (Muhammadans especially) into the ranks of officers with the same facilities of promotion as to Europeans and Eurasians.	268	762	
——— See *Criminal Cases* and *Murder Cases.*			
Police Administration Report.—Cases of homicide noticed in the—.	392	1090	
Police Station.—Abolition of the — at Waltair	337	942	
Prices of products.—See *Malabar Compensation for Tenants' Improvements Act,* 1899.			
Printing Work.—See *High Court* and *Jails.*			
Prison / *Prisoner* / *Prison offences* } See *Diet* and *Jails.*			
Presidency Magistrates.—Desirability of increasing the number of — or appointing honorary — for the disposal of cases.	275	776	
Process Fees.—Reduction of — in the courts of subordinate and district judges to the scale obtaining in the courts of district munsifs.	119	324	430, 482, 576, 737, 954.
——— Refund of — in civil courts when notices and summonses for which they were paid had not issued.	117	320	
Processions.—See *Religious Processions.*			
Process-servers.—Control of district munsifs over —	306	869	

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Prosecutions.—Permission to the Advocate-General to appear before the Chief Presidency Magistrate for the defence in the libel prosecution of the "Madras Municipality" *versus* "the Madras Mail."	74	209	
——— See *High Court.*			
Provident Funds.—Suppression of fraudulent provident societies or funds in the northern circars and in the southern districts.	245 258 262 279 305	696 729 745 790 868	
Provident Societies.—See *Provident Funds.*			
Punishment.—See *Jails, Diet* and *Flogging.*			
Punitive Police.—Appointment of a special hospital assistant to look after the — at Sivakási.	217	619	
——— Imposition of the — cess in the Tinnevelly district.	14	40	
——— Quartering of — force in Cocanada and the disbandment of the force.	322 325 334	909 920 939	347, 348, 350.
Rajahmundry disturbances.—Disturbances in Rajahmundry necessitating despatch of troops.	322 332	910 937	
Ramesvaram fire accident.—See *Accidents.*			
Ranga Reddi Murder Case.—See *Murder Cases.*			
Rangiah Gounden.—See *Appeal against acquittal.*			
Record Office.—See *Registration Department.*			
Records.—See *Registration Department* and *Village Courts.*			
Refund of fees.—See *Process fees.*			
Registration.—See *Vakalats.*			
Registration Department.—Abolition of the post of night watchman in registration offices.	50	138	
——— Establishment of a central record office at each district head-quarters.	48	129	
——— Increase in applications for searches in the registration offices owing to the provision in the Civil Rules of Practice for production of encumbrance certificates with applications for sale of immovable property.	153	423	
——— Increase of establishment in the registration offices in the presidency.	153	425	
——— Insufficiency of establishment under registrars and sub-registrars and inconvenience caused to litigants in civil courts thereby.	153	424	
——— Periodical destruction in the Registration department of records that have satisfied the law of limitation for the institution of suits based on them.	307	873	
——— See *Sub-Registrars* and *Wynaad Allowance.*			
Religious Processions.—The carrying of a religious procession under the sanction of executive authorities along particular streets in Varagalur, Trichinopoly district, in spite of an injunction from the civil court.	62	170	
Reports.—See *Civil Justice Report.*			
Riots.—See *Tinnevelly Riots.*			
Roads.—See *Agency Tracts.*			
Robbery.—See *Crimes.*			
Rules.—See *Civil Justice Report* and *Criminal Cases.*			
Sankaran Nayar, C.I.E., Mr. C.—See *High Court.*			
Sankarasubbayya Pillai.—See *Cocanada Assault Case.*			
Sarishtadar, Bellary District Court.—See *District Court—Bellary.*			
Security Cases.—Number of — filed before the magistracy in the district of Tinnevelly for four years before and after 1899.	167	480	914
Sessions Judge of Kurnool.—See *Bar.*			
Sessions trials.—Irregularities on the part of Mr. A. M. Slight, Sessions Judge of Trichinopoly, in attending to —	312	882	
——— Irregularities in — at Coimbatore	393	1096	

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Slight, Mr. A. M.—See *Sessions Trials*			
Small Cause Court, Madras.—Disposal of appeals in — ..	377	1051	
——— Supersession of Muhammadans in filling up the post of registrar of the —.	272	769	
Small Cause Jurisdiction, North Malabar	161	447	
Sriramanavâmi Festival—See *Muharram (Cuddapah).*			
Stage Carriages Act, 1861.—Working of the — between Ammayanáyakkanúr and Krishnamma Naik tope, Madura district.	311	880	
St. Thomas' Mount.—See *Cantonment Magistrate's Court,* —.			
Sub-Inspectors of Police.—See *Police (Madras City).*			
Sub-Magistrate.—See *Criminal cases, Judicial Service* and *Police.*			
Subordinate Judges.—Appointment of Mr. J. C. Fernandez as subordinate judge of Calicut in preference to his seniors among the district munsifs.	128	350	409, 441
——— Average rate of mortality and duration of life of —.	313	885	
——— Grant of grade promotions to — in temporary vacancies so as to entitle them to pecuniary allowances.	282 390	798 1086	
——— Investing of — with the powers of Assistant Sessions Judge.	257	727	
——— See *Civil Courts Act, Evidence* and *Judicial Service.*			
Subordinate Judge's Court.—Abolition of a — at Tinnevelly.	85	240	
——— Establishment of a — at Coimbatore to relieve the District Judge of civil work.	253	718	
——— Establishment of a temporary — at Bellary.	353	984	
——— Establishment of a — in Tellicherry.	85 161	240 449	
——— Location at Tuticorin of the court of the additional Subordinate Judge of Tinnevelly.	77	215	
——— See *Process Fees.*			
Sub-Registrar.—Dismissal of S. C. Krishna Rao, late sub-registrar of Kangayam, Coimbatore district.	328	930	
——— Investing sub-registrars with the power of summoning parties and witnesses.	67	184	
——— See *Wynaad Allowance.*			
Suits.—See *Agency Courts, District Courts, District Munsifs' Courts* and *Village Courts.*			
Sullivan, Mr.—Enquiry into the conduct of —, Superintendent of Police, on a charge of bribery.	376	1049	438 513
Superintendents of Prisons—See *Jails.*			
Taskwork—In Vellore Jail	386	1074	
Tinnevelly Riots	343	961	
——— See *Allowances*			
Torchlight Dacoities.—See *Crimes.*			
Transfer of Property Act.—Memorial from the people of South Canara to the Government of India regarding amendment of section 59 of the —.	355	989	
Translation fees.—See *High Court.*			
Vacation.—See *District Munsif's Court.*			
Vakalats.—Orders of the Collector of Malabar for the registration of — by adhikaris only on written applications of parties.	292	826	
Vellore Jail.—Cash earnings and net profits in the—	396	1105	
——— See *Flogging, Jail Manufacture* and *Taskwork.*			
Venkataramana Pai, Mr.—See *District Judges.*			
Vijayendra Rao.—Restoration of —, late sub-magistrate of Trichinopoly, to a magistracy or to any appointment in the Revenue or other department on his original salary.	272	768	
Village Courts.—Conferring of second-class powers on bench courts exercising third-class powers.	74	207	
——— Establishment of bench courts wherever possible ..	8 197	23 568	

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Village Courts.—Extension of the bench magistrates' system to all taluks where deputy tahsildars do both revenue and criminal work.	197	568	44, 630
——— Fall in the number of — exercising civil jurisdiction.	389	1084	
——— Inspection of the records of — by district munsifs ..	313	884	
——— Number of suits disposed of by bench courts in districts to which section 9 of the Madras Village Courts Act, 1888, has been extended as distinguished from suits decided by the village munsif alone.	7 313	20 884	
——— Number of villages to which the Madras Village Courts Act, 1888, section 9, has been extended and in which bench courts have been formed.	7 313	20 884	44, 630
——— Organization of under the Madras Village Courts Act, 1889, and relief to civil courts by the compulsory institution of small money suits tried in such courts.	8 158 389	22 439 1084	
——— See *Civil Justice Report.*			
Village Courts Act, 1888.—Districts in which section 9 of the Act is in force.	224	644	27, 44, 630
——— Extension of the section to other districts	8 224	23 644	27,44,630
Village Magistrate.—See *Village Munsifs.*			
Village Munsifs.—Abolition of the system of honorary — in zamindari tracts.	20	50	
——— Number of — exercising civil jurisdiction in the Telugu districts.	8	22	
——— Return of — with property qualifications for Tinnevelly district.	392	1093	
——— Rules for the appointment of —	313 392	884 1 093	
——— Trial of small suits by —	8	22	
Village Panchayats.—Constitution of —	389	1 084	
Visiting Hours.—See *Civil Jail, Madras.*			
Vittal Rao, P.—See *Jail Department.*			
Vizagapatam Agency.—See *Agency Tracts.*			
Waltair Police Station.—See *Police station.*			
Watts, Second Lieutenant.—See *Appeal against acquittal.*			
Weir, C. J., Mr.—See *Arms Act (XI)*, 1878.			
Wynaad Allowance.—Extension of the general rule as to grant of — to sub-registrars also.	275	777	
Youthful Offenders.—See *Jails.*			

LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Accommodation at Ootacamund.—See *Non-official Additional Members.*			
Legislative Council.—Election of the zamindari representative in the Council by proprietors of impartible estates.	284	805	
Legislative Council Selections.—Necessity for a final meeting of the voting delegates of local boards or municipalities for selection of candidates for nomination to the Council when there is an absolute majority of votes for a candidate at the preliminary meetings.	130	355	
Meetings at Ootacamund.—See *Non-official Additional Members.*			
Non-official Additional Members.—Provision of proper accommodation at Ootacamund for Indian members when summoned for meetings of the Council at that station.	93	265	
Official publications.—Free supply of orders placed on Editors' Table and Civil Budget estimates of other provinces to members of the Legislative Council.	383	1,067	
Rent Law.—See *Tenancy Bill*, 1898.			
Tenancy Bill, 1898.—Resumption of the — by the Council for being passed into law.	83	232	260
Voting Delegates.—See *Legislative Council Selections.*			
Zamindari representative.—See *Legislative Council.*			

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL (LOCAL) DEPARTMENT.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

(1) Local

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar question in Volume I.
Abolition of Schools.—See *Education.*			
Agency roads.—Control over the roads in the Vizagapatam Agency by District Board Engineer instead of by sub-magistrates.	348	972	
—— — Improvement of —	384	1071	
Agency Tracts.—See *Hospital Assistants and Water-supply.*			
Badagara Hospital.—See *Hospitals and Dispensaries.*			
Car shed at Dowlaishweram.—See *Encroachments in Unions.*			
Board schools.—See *Education.*			
Chairman of Union.—See *Ramesvaram Union.*			
Chingleput District Board.—See *Meeting papers.*			
Cholera.—Medical aid to combat—and small-pox.	345	966	
—— —— In Ramesvaram union	350	976	
Circulation of papers.—See *Meeting papers.*			
Civil hospital, Vizagapatam.—See *Hospitals and Dispensaries.*			
Compulsory Vaccination.—See *Vaccination.*			
Contributions.—See *Hospitals and Dispensaries* and *Roads.*			
Courtallam.—See *Union Panchayats.*			
Death-rate.—See *Vital Statistics.*			
Depopulation of Villages.—In Hospet taluk, Bellary district, on the Tungabhadra owing to malaria.	341	954	
Deputy Inspectors of Vaccination.—See *Vaccination Department.*			
Dispensaries.—See *Hospitals and Dispensaries.*			
District Board Engineers.—See *Engineer—District Board.*			
District Board Railways.—See *Railways.*			
District Boards.—See *Elective Privilege.*			
Dowlaishweram.—See *Encroachments in Unions.*			
Education.—Abolition of certain Muhammadan and Hindu Board primary schools in the Ramnad taluk, Madura district, and the opening of new schools in their stead.	17	47	360, 912
—— Proposals of the District Board of Tanjore to abolish the Board's Hindu primary schools in the district and to replace them by private schools on the fixed grant system.	16	44	
—— Reduction of about Rs. 2,000 in the pay of the inspecting schoolmasters and of about Rs. 4,000 in the salary of the schoolmasters in the service of the District Board of Malabar.	112	306	
—— See *Technical institutes.*			
Elections.—See *Elective Privilege.*			
Elective Privilege—District Boards.—Decrease of non-official element in district boards and framing of rules to prevent competition between revenue officials and the non-officials in the matter of elections to district boards.	264	753	
—— Grant of the privilege of electing Vice-Presidents to all district boards.	283	802	36, 38
—— *Local Boards.*—The increasing of elected members in the local boards of this Presidency.	126	344	276, 278, 894–897
—— *Taluk Boards and Union Panchayats.*—Introduction of the elective element into these local bodies in the Madras presidency.	330 342	935 957	
Encroachments in Unions.—Revocation by the Taluk Board of Rajahmundry of its sanction to the construction of a masonry shed for the temple car at Dowlaishweram.	320 325	903 922	
Engineer—District Board—General.—Nationality, place of birth and training and the engineering qualifications of District Board Engineers appointed after the orders of January 1897.	88	248	116, 500

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL (LOCAL) DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Engineer—District Board—General.—Number of District Board Engineers locally born and trained or locally trained.	176	506	117, 606, 607, 635, 657, 868
——— Reversion to the orders of 1897 in the matter of the selection and pay of District Board Engineers and Assistant Engineers and cancellation of the orders of 1903–1904.	176	506	117, 606, 607, 635, 657, 868
——— The filling up of vacancies in the posts of District Board Engineers since the issue of the orders of January 1897.	80	224	117, 606, 607, 635, 657, 868
——— *Gódávari.*—Increase of the pay of the —.	193	559	
——— *Malabar.*—Dismissal of Mr. Oswald deRosario, Engineer, District Board, and his appeal to the Board and to Government.	191 200	553 575	
Fees —See *Medical Practitioners.*			
Fixed Grant System.—See *Education.*			
Gódávari District Board.—Total income of the Board prior and subsequent to the redistribution of Gódávari and Kistna districts.	193	559	
——— See *Engineer—District Board* and *Roads.*			
Grant.—Utilization of the — of Government of India for sanitation.	345	966	
Hospital Assistants.—Appointment of additional hospital assistants in Ganjám and Vizagapatam Agencies to render medical aid to hill-men and the grant of travelling allowance and batta to those officers.	303	860	
Hospitals and Dispensaries.—Closure of certain dispensaries under the Malabar District Board and the conversion of certain hospitals into dispensaries.	112	306	667
——— Closure of the hospital at Badagara.	120	328	667
——— Closure of the Victoria Gosha hospital, Vizagapatam.	377	1052	
——— Contributions for the Palamcottah District General Hospital by the District Board of Tinnevelly, the Zamindar of Ettaiyápuram and the Government.	253	716	
——— Enhancement of the contribution of the district board to the Civil Hospital, Vizagapatam.	319	901	
——— Establishment of a dispensary at Sivakási or the utilization of the services of the punitive police hospital assistant for the people of the locality.	217	619	
——— Utilization of the Langarkhana fund for the construction of a district general hospital at Palamcottah.	253	716	
Imperial Roads.—See *Roads.*			
Inspecting Schoolmasters.—See *Education.*			
Khonds.—See *Markets.*			
Kurinjipadi.—See *Union Panchayats.*			
Lakshmiammal, V. C.—See *Tolls.*			
Langarkhana Fund —See *Hospitals and Dispensaries.*			
Legislation.—Passing of an Act like the Puri Lodging House Act.	350	976	
Lepers Act.—Introduction of — into this Presidency	295	837	
Loans.—See *Railways.*			
Local Boards.—See *Elective Privilege* and *Non-official Members of —.*			
Lodging-houses.—See *Legislation.*			
Malabar District Board.—See *Education, Engineer—District Board* and *Hospitals and Dispensaries.*			
Malaria.—Measures for the suppression of — in the Presidency.	341	954	
Markets.—Establishment of shandies by the Ganjam and Vizagapatam District Boards to afford the Khonds and Savaras a market for the sale of their agricultural produce.	289	819	
Medical aid.—Improvement of —.	345	966	
Medical aid in Agency Tracts —See *Hospital Assistants.*			
Medical practitioners.—Sanctioned scale of fees for —	368	1025	

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL (LOCAL) DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Meeting Papers.—Discontinuance of the practice of circulating — to members in the Chingleput District Board.	54	145	
Non-official Members of Local Boards.—Supply of perforated postage stamps or grant of other postage concessions in regard to correspondence by these members with officials.	352	982	
—— —— See *Elective Privilege* and *Vice-Presidents.*			
Palamcottah District General Hospital.—See *Hospitals and Dispensaries.*			
Postal Concessions.—See *Non-official Members of Local Boards.*			
Primary education.—The number of primary schools aided by local boards and municipalities and the cost thereof.	279	792	
Primary schools.—See *Education* and *Primary education.*			
—— —— See *Supervisors of primary schools.*			
Printing work of Local Boards.—Complaint by the Sowrashtra Patriot Press, Salem, in regard to the execution of the — by private presses in the city of Madras.	34	83	560
Provincial Grants.—See *Roads.*			
Provincialization.—See *Supervisors of primary schools.*			
Railway Cess.—Amount of cess levied by the District Board of Trichinopoly.	252	715	
—— —— Number of districts in which the cess has been introduced.	159	442	
—— —— Suspension of the cess in Trichinopoly until the construction of a railway line is settled.	252	715	
Railways.—Grant of loans by Government to district boards for starting railway projects.	159	442	
—— —— Railway projects undertaken by the several district boards.			
Railway Feeder Roads.—See *Roads.*			
Rameswaram Union.—Appointment of a medical officer as chairman of the Union.	350	976	
—— —— Improvement of the sanitation and water-supply of the union and application to the Government of India for a grant therefor.			
Rayalu Reddiyar, K. P.—See *Union Panchayats.*			
Religious Instruction.—See *School-rooms.*			
Road Cess.—See *Roads.*			
Roads—General.—Expenditure of a percentage of road-cess on village communications.	132	362	185, 960
—— —— Amount of provincial grants made to District Boards since the passing of Madras Local Boards Act, 1884, for the maintenance of Imperial roads, transferred to local boards.	28	69	
—— —— Government contributions and expenditure from local funds for previous five years on railway feeder roads.	132	363	185
—— —— Levy of contributions by local boards from villagers for improving village communications.	132	362	
—— —— Number of railway stations without feeder roads ..	132	363	
—— —— See *Agency roads.*			
Roads—District Board, Gódávari.—Total mileage of — within the jurisdiction of the board prior and subsequent to the new territorial redistribution of the Gódávari and Kistna districts.	193	559	
Rosario, Mr. Oswald de.—See *Engineer—District Board—Malabar.*			
Sanitation.—Improvement of — in the Presidency	345	966	
—— —— See *Grant, Legislation* and *Rameswaram Union.*			
Sanitary Science.—Training in — for medical and engineering students to be employed as sanitary surveyors.	73	206	
Sankaranayinárkóvil.—See *Water-supply—Tinnevelly District.*			
Savaras.—See *Markets.*			
Schoolmasters.—See *Education.*			
School-rooms.—Loan of — for religious lectures or studies ..	365	1019	
Shandies.—See *Markets.*			
Sivakási Dispensary.—See *Hospitals and Dispensaries.*			

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL (LOCAL) DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Small-pox.—See *Cholera.*			
Sub-Magistrates.—See *Agency Roads.*			
Supervisors of primary schools.—Provincialization of the agency of —.	364	1014	
Taluk Boards.—See *Elective Privilege.*			
Tanjore District Board.—See *Education.*			
Technical institutes.—Establishment by local boards of — on the model of the institution at Madura.	79	221	
Toll-gates.—See *Tolls.*			
Tolls.—Abolition of — in certain places in Malabar	130 163 382	358 459 1065	
——— Abolition of — in the presidency	482	1064	
———Illegal collection of — at Manjéri in Malabar from one Vallikkott Cherumanisseri Lakshmiammal.	294	832	
Travelling Allowance.—See *Hospitals and Dispensaries.*			
Trichendúr.—See *Water-supply—Tinnevelly District.*			
Union Panchayats.—Constitution of Courtallam in the Tinnevelly district into a union or provision otherwise for the conservancy and sanitation of the place.	47	128	277, 907
——— Desirability of placing the — on a popular basis without official nominees on them.	181	520	
——— Nomination of K. P. Rayalu Reddiyar who was convicted for perjury and rioting as a member of the union panchayat of Kurinjipadi, South Arcot district.	62	173	
——— See *Elective Privilege* and *Encroachments in Unions.*			
Vaccination.—Introduction of compulsory — in Malabar and other parts of the presidency.	164 355	466 991	633
Vaccination Department.—Increase of work to vaccination officers in Malabar. ——— Introduction of the reformed scheme relating to the — in Malabar.	355	991	
Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries.—See entries under Revenue Department.			
Vice-Presidents—District Boards.—Appointment of non-official Vice-Presidents for the Ganjám and Vizagapatam District Boards.	305	865	
Vice-Presidents—Local Boards.—Appointment of non-officials as Vice-Presidents of the District Boards of North Arcot, Bellary, Nellore and Kurnool and of a few select Taluk Boards in the presidency.	56	151	36,38,641
——— See *Elective Privilege.*			
Vital Statistics.—Increase of death-rate in the presidency.	358	999	
Victoria Gosha Hospital, Vizagapatam.—See *Hospitals and Dispensaries.*			
Vizagapatam Agency.—See *Agency roads.*			
Vizagapatam Civil Hospital.—See *Hospitals and Dispensaries.*			
Water-supply.—Provision of drinking water-supply in the Ganjám and Vizagapatam Agencies at the cost of local or provincial funds by sinking wells, etc.	304	861	
——— Provision of water-supply for Trichendúr and Sankaranayinárkóvil, two places of pilgrimage in the Tinnevelly district, at the joint cost of the temple authorities, the local boards and the Government.	253	717	958
——— See *Rameswaram Union.*			
Zamindar of Ettaiyapuram.—See *Hospitals and Dispensaries.*			

(2) Municipal.

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Accidents.—See *Parthasarathi temple tank, Triplicane,* and *Tramway.*			
Achyutaramayya, M.R.Ry. M.—See *Elective Privilege—Rajahmundry.*			

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL (MUNICIPAL) DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Adulteration of ghee.—See *Food and Drugs.*			
Allowances.—See *Compensation for dearness of food.*			
Anantapur Municipality.—See *Victoria Memorial Dispensary, Anantapur.*			
Animals.—See *Destruction of —.*			
Assistant Surgeons.—See *Profession-tax*			
Bellary Municipality.—See *Elections.*			
Berhampur Municipality.—See *Water-supply.*			
Bezwada Municipality.—See *Elective Privilege, Grant* and *Land Acquisition.*			
Cannanore Municipality.—See *Chairmen of Municipalities* and *Roads.*			
Census Charges.—Principle of debiting to the municipalities a proportion of the —.	84	236	
Chairmen of Municipalities —			
Cannanore.—Employment by Mr. Winckler, chairman of the — Municipality, of the waterman attached to the municipal hospital for his private service.	214	612	
——— Letting by the same chairman for the celebration of Muharram of a bungalow placed at the disposal of the municipal council for plague purposes.	214	611	
——— Successive futile prosecutions of a minor school boy by Mr. Winckler, Civil Surgeon, as chairman for leaving stable-refuse in an open receptacle.	213	610	
Vellore.—Removal of M.R.Ry. A. C. Seshagiri Rao, chairman, from the offices of chairman and councillor.	9	25	
——— See *Elections, Elective Privilege* and *Taxation.*			
Cholera.—Appointment of a commission to enquire into the origin of the epidemic in the city of Madras.	238	676	
——— Causes of the outbreak of — in the Madras City.	234 236 239	669 673 681	
——— Causes of the outbreak of — in Trichinopoly.	155	429	
Choultries.—See *Rest-houses and Choultries.*			
Civil Apothecaries.—See *Profession tax.*			
Closure of roads.—See *Roads.*			
Coimbatore Hospital.—See *Hospitals and Dispensaries.*			
Coimbatore Municipality.—See *Elections* and *Sanitation.*			
Compensation for dearness of food.—Extension of the concession of — to local fund and municipal employés in receipt of pay up to Rs. 30.	339 354	949 985	
Conjeeveram Municipal Council.—See *Meeting Papers.*			
Contracts.—The giving of the contract for the construction of a central market to a municipal councillor in the Madura municipality.	308	876	
Cuddapah Municipality.—See *Water supply.*			
Destruction of animals.—Establishment of lethal chambers for the destruction of dogs in lieu of the practice of clubbing them to death.	120	330	
District Municipalities.—See *Profession-tax.*			
Dogs.—See *Destruction of animals.*			
Drainage—Kumbakónam.—Defects in the drainage of the town and the execution of sanctioned schemes.	198	570	
Drains.—Prohibition as to construction over drains of steps leading to dwelling houses.	131	360	
Elections —			
General.—Inclusion of undergraduates (First-in-Arts men) in municipal towns as voters.	146	402	
Bellary.—Veto by Government of the election of M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur A. Sabhapati Mudaliyar as chairman.	67	185	

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL (MUNICIPAL) DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Coimbatore.—The filling up of the vacancy caused by the transfer of Mr. Tyler to North Arcot by nomination instead of by election.	128	351	
——— See *Muhammadans.*			
Elective Privilege—			
Bezwada.—Grant to the municipal council of — of the privilege of electing its chairman.	152	420	
——— Grant of the franchise of electing a larger proportion of members to the municipal council of —.	293	830	20, 25, 175, 194, 434, 678
	293	830	
Ellore.—Restoration of the franchise of electing the chairman and three-fourths of the members to the municipal council.	293	830	
Masulipatam.—Restoration of the franchise of electing the chairman and three-fourths of the members to the Municipal council of —.	293	830	175, 194, 434
Rajahmundry.—Disapproval by Government of the election of M.R.Ry. M. Achyutaramayya as chairman of the municipal council of —.	221	636	589
Vellore.—Reduction in the strength of the elected councillors of the municipal council of — and withdrawal of the privilege of the council to elect its chairman.	9	24	646
Elementary schools.—Number of elementary and secondary schools aided by municipalities and local boards and the cost thereof.	279	792	
Ellore Municipality.—See *Elective Privilege.*			
Encroachments.—See *Drains.*			
Establishment.—See *Sanitation.*			
Fees.—See *Steam-boilers and Prime-movers Act.*	155	431	
Floods in the Madras City.—Origin and effect of the — and protective measures from such floods.	323	915	
Food and Drugs.—Importation of adulterated ghee into the Presidency.			
——— Passing of a measure analogous to the Ghee Adulteration Acts of Bombay and Calcutta for Madras.			
Ghee adulteration.—See *Food and Drugs.*			
Grain compensation allowance.—See *Compensation for dearness of food.*			
Grant.—To the Bezwada Municipality for the improvement and extension of the town.	344	963	
——— See *Hospitals and Dispensaries, Sanitation* and *Water-supply — Vizagapatam.*			
Grant-in-aid.—Payment by the Municipal Council, Salem, of a— to the London Mission school at Salem.	36	92	
Ground-rent.—See *Land Acquisition.*			
Guntúr Municipality.—See *Water-supply.*			
Hackney Carriages.—Interpretation by the Commissioner of Police of section 157 of the Madras City Municipal Act, 1904, as to obligation of owners of carriages applying for registration thereof to satisfy that the municipal tax in respect of animals used with the carriage has been paid.	204	587	
Hospitals and Dispensaries—Anantapur.—Grant from Provincial funds for the repair of the Victoria Memorial dispensary at the request of the municipal council.	343	959	
——— *Coimbatore.*—Removal of the hospital at Coimbatore from its present place to the eastern end of the town.	178	514	
Hospital Assistants.—See *Profession-tax.*			
Jalaripalem.—See *Vizagapatam Municipality.*			
Kumbakonam Municipality.—See *Drainage.*			
Land Acquisition.—Exemption from ground-rent of lands acquired by the Bezwada Municipality and sold by them without reserving such rent.	344	963	
Latrines.—See *Sanitation.*			
Legislation.—Enactment of a measure like the Puri Lodging House Act for introduction into places like Ramesvaram.	350	976	

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL (MUNICIPAL) DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume II.
Legislation.—See *Food and Drugs.*			
Leprosy.—Prevalence of — in Srivilliputtúr and the prevention of the bathing of lepers in the Tirumukakulam tank.	79	222	
Lethal chambers.—See *Destruction of animals.*			
Local Fund servants.—See *Compensation for dearness of food.*			
Lodging houses.—See *Legislation.*			
London Mission Schools, Salem.—See *Grant-in-aid.*			
Madras City Municipality.—See *Hackney Carriages, Sanitation* and *Water-supply.*			
Madura Municipality.—See *Contracts.*			
Managers in Municipal offices.—See *Municipal Service.*			
Markets.—See *Contracts.*			
Masulipatam Municipality.—See *Elective Privilege.*			
Medical Practitioners.—Fees for — in mufassal municipalities.	368	1025	
Meeting Papers.—Discontinuance of the practice of circulating — to councillors in the Conjeeveram Municipal Council.	54	145	
Muhammadans.—Statistics of electors and councillors who are —.	375	1045	811, 861
Municipal Act—Madras City.—See *Hackney Carriages.*			
——— *District Municipalities.*—See *Profession-tax.*			
Municipal Councils.—See *Elective Privilege* and *Meeting Papers.*			
Municipal Limits.—See *Vizagapatam Municipality.*			
Municipal Service.—Application of the pension or provident fund rules to appointments in —. ——— Circulation of special reports about secretaries and managers to all chairmen and Collectors for selecting persons to fill up vacancies on higher pay. ——— Introduction of a system of organized common service between municipalities.	254	721	827
Non-official Members.—See *Elections* and *Elective Privilege.*			
Nuisances.—See *Sanitation.*			
Parthasarathi temple tank, Triplicane.—Accidents by drowning in the tank and adoption of preventive measures therefor.	49, 121	133, 331	
Pedda or Reddika Waltair.—See *Vizagapatam Municipality.*			
Pension Rules.—See *Municipal Service.*			
Plague.—See *Sanitation.*			
Police.—See *Sanitation.*			
Profession-tax.—On medical officers in mufassal municipalities.	368	1025	
Profession-tax.—Levy of — by two adjacent municipalities, Palamcottah and Tinnevelly, on the entire income of legal practitioners and practice in the matter in Srirangam and Trichinopoly.	245	698	
——— On assistant surgeons, civil apothecaries and hospital assistants.	368	1025	
——— Revision of the existing schedule of tax on arts and professions in the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1884.	46	121	900
Prosecutions.—See *Chairmen of Municipalities.*			
Provident Fund Rules.—See *Municipal Service.*			
Public Nuisances.—See *Sanitation.*			
Puri Lodging House Act.—See *Legislation.*			
Rajahmundry Municipality.—See *Elective Privilege.*			
Registration of Hackney Carriages.—See *Hackney Carriages.*			
Religious instruction.—See *School-rooms.*			
Rest-houses and Choultries.—Provision of — at Coonoor and Ootacamund by the joint action of the municipalities of those places and the District Board of the Nilgiris.	92	263	
——— Use of the travellers' bungalow at Tuticorin for the Municipal office.	181	521	
Roads.—Closure to the public by the Commanding Officer of two — running through the Fort Esplanade at Cannanore.	321	907	
Sabhapati Mudaliyar, Rao Bahadur A.—See *Elections—Bellary.*			
Salem Municipality.—See *Water-supply.*			

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL (MUNICIPAL) DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Sanitary Commissioner.—See *Sanitation.*			
Sanitary Science.—Provision of practical training in — for students who have passed through the Medical and Engineering colleges for employment of such persons as sanitary surveyors by local boards and district municipalities.	73	206	
Sanitation—			
General.—Co-operation of the police in putting down nuisances.	244	695	
——— Desirability of appointing a few assistants to the Sanitary Commissioner for the inspection of sanitation in mufassal municipalities.	159	444	
——— Free grants to such municipalities as have undertaken large sanitary works.	160	445	
——— The investing of sanitary inspectors with power to release offenders arrested on bail. ——— Utilization of roadsides and drains as public latrines.	244	695	
Coimbatore.—The opening out of the congested parts of the municipality to prevent plague.	180	518	
Madras City.—State of public health in the —	234	669	
Sanitary Inspectors.—See *Sanitation.*			
School-rooms.—Loan of Municipal — for religious lectures or studies.	365	1019	
Secondary schools.—Number of elementary and secondary schools aided by municipalities and local boards and the cost thereof.	279	792	
Secretaries to Municipal Councils.—Usefulness of Municipal Secretaries in general.	305	866	
——— See *Municipal Service* and *Visagapatam Municipality.*			
Seshagiri Rao, M.R.Ry. A. C.—See *Chairmen of Municipalities — Vellore.*			
Srivilliputtur Municipality.—See *Leprosy.*			
Steam-boilers and Prime-movers Act, 1893.—Extension of the Act to the mufassal in the case of private owners of steam-engines and fees to be levied from them.	67	183	
Sub-Magistrate.—See *Vice-Chairman.*			
Taxation.—Abolition of the distinction between official and non-official chairmen in regard to assessment of tax payable by themselves.	174	500	
——— See *Profession-tax* and *Water and Drainage tax.*			
Technical institutes.—Establishment by municipal councils of — on the model of the institution at Madura.	79	221	
Tirumukakulam tank.—See *Leprosy.*			
Tirupati Municipality.—See *Water-supply.*			
Tramways—Madras City—			
Accidents caused by tram-cars since the introduction of tramways in the city.	192	556	
Accidents in Chintadripet and Wall-tax road from tram-cars.	192 226	556 650	
Diversion of the existing lines in the narrow streets of Chintadripet and other places to broader streets.	192 197 227 230	556 566 651 659	
Grievances of the people of Chintadripet in regard to the tramway lines laid in their streets.	230 286	659 811	
Number of trailer cars running daily on the Barber's Bridge and Royapettah sections for 1902—1904 and 1906.	286	811	
Provision in the cars of a mechanism to stop the car instantaneously or averting otherwise the danger involved.	226 227 230	650 651 659	
Recommendation of the committee of the Corporation of Madras for an additional line by the Penitentiary and Body Guard lines.	286	811	

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL (MUNICIPAL) DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Tramways—Madras City—cont.			
Removal of the inconveniences caused to the public by the extension of sidings on single lines and the raising of the road level by laying higher rails.	257	726	
Tramway-railway collision at Periyamet	286	812	
Travellers' bungalow.—See *Rest-houses and Choultries.*			
Trichinopoly Municipality.—See *Water-supply.*			
Tuticorin Municipality—See *Water-supply.*			
Tyler, Mr.—See *Elections—Coimbatore.*			
Undergraduates.—See *Elections.*			
Vániyambádi Municipality.—See *Vice-Chairman.*			
Vellore Municipality.—See *Chairmen of Municipalities, Elective Privilege* and *Water-supply.*			
Vice-Chairman.—Anomaly in the sub-magistrate being Vice-Chairman of the municipality in Vániyambádi and other places.	197	567	
Victoria Memorial Dispensary, Anantapur.—See *Hospitals and Dispensaries.*			
Vizagapatam Municipality.—Appointment of a full-time Secretary for the municipality.	337	943	
——— Inclusion of the villages of Jalaripalem and Pedda Waltair in the municipality.	348	971	
——— See *Water and Drainage tax* and *Water-supply.*			
Voters.—See *Elections* and *Muhammadans.*			
Waltair—See *Water-supply.*			
Water and drainage tax.—Payment of water-tax at half rates by tax-payers of Waltair in Vizagapatam Municipality. ——— Suspension of water-tax till water-supply is made available.	289	817	
Water-supply.—General—Provincial grant for the water-works projects of Guntúr, Tuticorin and Salem municipalities.	160	445	
——— *Berhampur.*—Approval by Government of the Berhampur water-supply scheme and commencement of work.	316	893	201, 702
——— *Cuddapah.*—Failure of the water-works of the town and project of connecting the works with the Peddagadi reservoir.	92	261	715, 735
——— *Madras City.*—Arrangements for a supply of pure water in the city.	239	681	
——— *Tirupati.*—Obstructions to the free flow of water in the pipes by roots of trees and vegetation getting into them.	344	962	
——— Replacing of the cement pipe main of the works by a steel main.	358	998	
——— *Trichinopoly.*—Restoration to a sanitary condition of 63 neglected drinking water-supply tanks in the municipality.	155	429	
——— *Vellore.*—Water-works scheme for the town	92	262	
——— *Vizagapatam.*—Extension of the — to Waltair and other portions of the municipality.	289 378	817 1055	
——— Provincial grant for the water-works of the municipality.	349 378	975 1055	
Water-works—See *Water-supply.*			
Winckler, Mr.—Civil Surgeon, Cannanore.—See *Chairmen of Municipalities—Cannanore.*			

(3) Plague.

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Epidemic Diseases Act and Regulations.—See *Working of the —.*			
Evacuation.—Of Satyavizianagaram in North Arcot district in consequence of plague. ——— Provision of temporary camps or lodging houses for people whenever — is ordered.	169	486	
——— See *Plague sheds* and *Working of the Epidemic Diseases Act and Regulations.*			
Fines.—See *Working of the Epidemic Diseases Act and Regulations.*			

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL (PLAGUE) DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Infection—Prevention of —. Issue of a circular by the Collector of Bellary to village reddis not to admit into their villages persons coming from the infected town of Bellary.	129	354	
——— Prohibition of people from plague-infected districts from entering certain villages and towns in the district of Kurnool.	205	593	
Irregularities in the plague camp at Coonoor	254	719	825, 913
Plague.—Condition of — in Ootacamund, Coonoor, Méttupálaiyam and Coimbatore.	136	372	
——— Statistics connected with — administration for 1904 in Anantapur, Bellary, Coimbatore, Kurnool and Salem districts.	206	594	
Plague Camp—Coonoor.—See *Irregularities in the* —.			
Plague sheds.—Approval by the District Medical Officer, Anantapur, and the Sanitary Commissioner of sheds built for plague patients at Rs. 2 each under orders of the Collector of Anantapur.	220	633	
——— Construction of plague sheds at one rupee each by the Tahsildar of Tadpatri.	220	632	
——— Order of the Collector of Anantapur to the Deputy Tahsildar of Uravakonda to make good Rs. 200 spent by him on — under sanction of a previous Collector.	220	630	
——— Refusal of the Collector of Anantapur to sanction an expenditure of Rs. 2 incurred by the Tahsildar of Gooty under the orders of the Sanitary Commissioner to enable a poor man, who evacuated his house under compulsion, to put up a shed.	221	635	
——— Refusal of the Collector of Anantapur to sanction the money spent by the Tahsildar of Kalyandrug in purchasing blankets, etc., for plague patients on a requisition from the Assistant Surgeon.	220	631	
Prosecutions.—See *Working of the Epidemic Diseases Act and Regulations.*			
Satyavizianagaram.—See *Evacuation.*			
Statistics.—See *Plague.*			
Working of the Epidemic Diseases Act and Regulations.—Grievances of the inhabitants of Tiruppattúr, Salem district, after they had evacuated their houses.	31	79	825, 913
——— Irregularities in the working of the Epidemic Diseases Act and Regulations at Coonoor.	254	719	
——— Number of prosecutions for offences under the Plague Regulations and fines levied in them in Bellary and Adóni during 1901—1904.	219	627	

MARINE DEPARTMENT.

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
British India Steam Navigation Company.—Compulsory supply of diet to Hindu and Muhammadan passengers.	189	547	
"*Camorta,*" *S.S.*—See *Steam Ships.*			
Cooking by passengers on board.—See *British India Steam Navigation Company.*			
Crew of vessels.—Maintenance of lists of passengers by ship agents.	110	299	
Food-supply.—See *British India Steam Navigation Company.*			
"*Gallia,*" *S.S.*—See *Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company.*			
Harbours—General.—Survey of the chief ports on the West Coast for the construction of a good harbour on that coast.	45	117	
——— *Madras.*—Commencement of the work on the harbour improvements scheme.	127	348	
——— Use of Madras Portland cement in the harbour improvement works.	127	349	
——— *Tuticorin.*—Improvements to the harbour at the place.	270	765	

MARINE DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Harbours.—Vizagapatam.—Construction of a harbour at Vizagapatam.	260 349 383	739 974 1068	
—— —— Levy of harbour duties at Vizagapatam.	260	739	
Native Sailing vessels.—See *Steam Ships.*			
Ports—Tuticorin.—Removal of defects pointed out with regard to the port.	131	359	
—— – Surplus of port revenue over expenditure	270	765	587
—— *Vizagapatam.*—Improvement of —	279 383	791 1068	
Shipwrecks.—See *Steam Ships.*			
Steam Ships.—Loss of the S.S. "Camorta" that sailed from Negapatam to Rangoon.	88 110	251 299	582, 627
Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company.—Prevention by the Port office, Tuticorin, of the clearance of S.S. "Gallia."	343	960	
Tuticorin port—See *Ports.*			
Vizagapatam Harbour.—See *Harbours.*			

PENSION DEPARTMENT.

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Superannuation allowances.—Increase in the — between 1890–1891 and 1907–1908. —— Preparation of an estimate of the maximum limit of —.	316	892	

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Chidambaram Chettiyar, R. M. M. S. T.— See *Pudukkóttai Jurisdiction.*			
Pudukkóttai Jurisdiction.—Petition of R. M. M. S. T. Ramaswami Chettiyar regarding the assumption of jurisdiction over the village of Thammanai (Madura district) by a third-class magistrate of Pudukkóttai State.	309	877	
Travancore backwater.—Loss of life and property in the backwater.	34	87	

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Agency Tracts.—See *Emigration.*			
Allowances.—See *Civil Assistant Surgeons,* and *Personal allowance.*			
Appeals by public servants.—See *Official Papers.*			
Andrew, Mr. J.—See *Ophthalmic Hospital, Madras.*			
Arbuthnot failure.—Details of the failure and the nature of relief to be granted to the sufferers.	273 283 284 287	771 803 806 815	
—— Special legislation for the administration of the insolvency.	273 283	771 803	
Assam.—See *Emigration.*			
Assistant Surgeons.—See *Civil Assistant Surgeons.*			
Attendance in public offices.—See *Public offices.*			
Austin, Mr. R. F.—See *Conduct of public servants.*			
Bank—Dealings of Government servants with —. See *Government Servants' Conduct Rules.*			
Burma.—See *Emigration.*			
Cape Colony.—See *Emigration.*			
Chamber of Commerce.—See *Collectorate of Sea Customs, Madras.*			
Chief Secretariat.—See *Personal allowance.*			
Chloroform.—See *Deaths.*			

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Civil Apothecary at Tondi.—Combination of many public functions in the apothecary in addition to his duties as medical officer.	310	879	
Civil Apothecaries.—See *Civil Assistant Surgeons.*			
Civil Assistant Surgeons.—Assimilation of the pay and position of — to those of the other provinces and the introduction of the senior grade in this Presidency.	187 265	538 756	753
——— Distinction in the privileges enjoyed by — who are assistants to District Medical and Sanitary Officers and other Civil Assistant Surgeons and the desirability of declaring the two classes of these surgeons as uninterchangeable.	199	573	30
——— Improvement of the pay and prospects of — ..	345 358	965 1000	753
——— Improvement of the status of — in this Presidency by allowing them the full privileges of gazetted officers in the matter of travelling allowance and other matters.	179 199 323 327	516 573 912 928	
——— Promotion of Civil Apothecaries as Civil Assistant Surgeons and the abolition of the two septennial examinations to be passed by these officers for promotion to higher grades.	179	516	30
——— See *Civil Surgeoncies, Medical Department, Medical examinations and Medical Practitioners.*			
Civil Hospital—Vizagapatam.—See *Vizagapatam Civil Hospital.*			
Civil Hospital Assistants.—See *Hospital Assistants.*			
Civil Surgeoncies.—Appointment of a Civil Assistant Surgeon as Civil Surgeon in the arrangements consequent on the retirement of Lieutenant-Colonel Leapingwell, District Medical and Sanitary Officer, Kistna.	35	91	829, 857, 929
——— Filling up by a Civil Assistant Surgeon of the vacancy caused in the — by the transfer to the Jail department of the District Medical and Sanitary Officer, Trichinopoly.	14	41	
——— Transfer of the civil surgeoncy of Chatrapur to Tuticorin or other town.	22	56	
Cocanada Assault Case.—Conduct of Captain Kemp, Sankara Subbayya Pillai and other medical men in connection with the —.	322 333	908 938	
Collectorate of Sea Customs, Madras.—Representations of the Chamber of Commerce against frequent changes in the *personnel* of the —.	49	134	
Combination of offices.—See *Civil Apothecary at Tondi.*			
Conduct of public servants.—Alleged assault by Mr. R. F. Austin of certain worshippers in a Hindu temple in Malabar for the noise caused by the beating of tom-tom.	45	119	539
——— Deprivation of pension and title for violation of departmental orders.	241	685	
——— Observance of the Public Servants Enquiries Act, 1850, in enquiry into the conduct of Mr. P. Kershasp and others in Kotappakonda riots.	376	1050	438, 513
——— Sanction of Government to the farewell entertainment given to Mr. B. Macleod.	218	625	
——— See *Cocanada Assault Case* and *Government Servants' Conduct Rules.*			
Confidential Reports.—See *Government Servants' Conduct Rules.*			
Contributions.—See *Vizagapatam Civil Hospital.*			
Copies of Orders.—See *Official Papers.*			
Covenanted Civil Service.—See *Redistribution of districts.*			
Deaths.—Death of a native patient under chloroform at the residence of Major R. H. Elliot, I.M.S.	236	671	
Departmental Orders—Punishment for violation of—. See *Conduct of Public Servants.*			
Devasthanam Committees.—See *Religious Endowments.*			

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Dispensaries.—See *Hospitals and Dispensaries.*			
Dismissal of public servants.—See *Government Press* and *Official Papers.*			
District Judges.—See *Indian Civil Service* and *Provincial Civil Service.*			
Districts.—See *Redistribution of districts.*			
District Medical and Sanitary Officers—Assistants to the —. See *Civil Assistant Surgeons.*			
Divisional Charges.—Equalization of the revenue divisional charges and abolition of existing distinctions of Sub-Collectors', Head Assistants', Assistant and Deputy Collectors' divisions.	67	182	
Elections.—See *Religious Endowments.*			
Elliot, Major R. H.—See *Deaths* and *Ophthalmic Hospital.*			
Emigrants.—See *Emigration.*			
Emigration.—Absence of a special medical inspector for the — sub-depots in Madras.	237	674	
——— Appointment of a commission to inquire into complaints about the treatment of Indian coolies in the Natal estates and on board the S.S. *Umfuli* and appointment of a Protector of Indian Emigrants in Natal or adoption of other measures for the protection of Indian cooly subjects in that country.	268 298 311	763 845 881	
——— Comparative statement of emigrants at Tuticorin and other ports of the Presidency for the current and last three years.	216	618	
——— Contravention of rules of the Government of India in the non-removal of cholera patients in the sub-depots to an outside hospital.	237	675	
——— Increase in the number of emigrants to Ceylon at the port of Tuticorin.	216 229 229	618 656 657	
——— Increase in the number of emigrants from the Chingleput and North Arcot districts.	53	142	
——— Indentured Indians proceeding to Natal, the nature of their work, etc.	373 373 374	1037 1038 1039	
——— Number of British Indian subjects of the Madras Presidency permanently settled down in South Africa.	63	174	
——— Number of emigrants for last three years from the Vizagapatam and Gódávari districts to South Africa, Burma, Assam and Mauritius.	69	193	
——— Of peasantry in the district of Vizagapatam to Rangoon, Natal and foreign settlements.	317	897	
——— Remedies to alleged defects in the system of — in the presidency.	241	687	578
——— Removal of the emigration depôt at Rayapuram to some other part of Madras.	236	673	
——— Restrictions to be placed on — prior to embarkation.	119 229	325 657	 578
——— Saving by executive or legislative action of the interests of landholders in the matter of the recovery of advances made to labourers before their —.	119	325	578
——— Stopping of — from the districts of Ganjám and Vizagapatam.	385	1072	
——— Stopping of — to Ceylon with a view to remove the depressing effect on agriculture.	229	656	578
——— Withdrawal of emigrant without payment of compensation for loss of commission to the recruiting agent.	229	657	
——— See *Immigration into Cape Colony.*			
Emigration depôts.—See *Emigration.*			
Entertainment.—See *Conduct of public servants.*			

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Eurasian clerks.—See *Personal allowance.*			
European clerks.—See *Personal allowance.*			
Executive and Judicial functions.—Despatch from the Secretary of State regarding the separation of the Executive from the Judicial functions.	35	88	100
Extension of service.—To Ghulam Muhammad Sahib, Khan Bahadur, Manager, Surgeon-General's office.	309	878	
Farewell entertainment.—See *Conduct of public servants.*			
Fees.—See *Meteorological Statistics, Ophthalmic Hospital, Madras, and Medical Practitioners.*			
Fire.—See *Public offices.*			
Firms—Dealings of Government servants with —. See *Government Servants' Conduct Rules.*			
Gazetted Appointments.—See *Civil Assistant Surgeons.*			
Ghulam Muhammad Sahib, Khan Bahadur.—See *Extension of service.*			
Government Press.—Strike of the workmen at the —, dismissal of the strikers by the Superintendent and their appeal to Government against the dismissal	164 165 171	467-471 491	
—— Arrangements for carrying on work during the strike.	171	491	
—— Execution of the printing work of the Press at local private presses and at the Government Presses at Calcutta, Simla and Bombay.	165 166 166 171 172	468 472 473 491 492	
—— Existence of the task-work system in the Government Presses of other provinces.	172	492	
Government Servants.—See *Conduct of public servants, Government Press, Government Servants' Conduct Rules, Low-paid Clerks, Official Papers,* and *Public Service.*			
Government Servants' Conduct Rules.—Amendment of rules 21, 22 and 24 so as to remove the prohibition against gazetted and non-gazetted officers having pecuniary transactions with any bank or firm, other than a joint stock bank or British firm or against their depositing money in Indian or Native banks that are not joint stock banks.	273 284	772 804 806	
——Cancellation of Madras rules regulating the personal conduct of Government servants.	323	914	
——Meaning and scope of the expression "within local limits of his authority" in rule No. 7 of —.	323	914	
—— Prohibition against the ventilation of grievances of public servants in the public press.	168	482	
—— Relaxation of the rules so as to allow Government servants investing their savings with Indian firms or lending them to landholders in their native districts.	284	806	850
——Rules on the subject of confidential reports affecting unfavourably the character and prospects of promotion of public servants.	168 185	482, 483 532	
—— Statistics as to observance of the rules approved by the Government of India in inquiries into charges against public servants.	168 376	485 1050	
—— Use against a public servant of confidential reports or secret documents withheld from him in inquiry into charges against such servant.	168	484	
Government Service.—See *Public Service.*			
Governor's tours.—Publication of the official reports of the tours of His Excellency Lord Ampthill.	45	118	
Guntúr District.—See *Redistribution of districts.*			
Hill Allowance.—See *Hospital Assistants.*			
Hospitals and Dispensaries.—Decrease in the number of hospitals and dispensaries maintained or aided by Government and of the patients treated therein.	358	999	

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Hospitals and Dispensaries.—See *Maternity Hospital, Ophthalmic Hospital, Victoria Gosha Hospital, Vizagapatam,* and *Vizagapatam Civil Hospital.*			
Hospital Assistants.—Equalization of travelling allowance and fees of — in Government service and in the service of local bodies.	375	1048	
——— Framing of rules to prevent the frequent transfer of —.	200	576	
——— Hill allowance to — in Wynaad and the Nilgiris ..	367 368	1023 1024	
———Improvement of the pay and prospects of civil — ..	243 371	692 1032	957
——— Profession-tax for — in municipalities	368	1025	
——— Warm clothing allowance for —	368	1024	
——— See *Medical Practitioners.*			
Immigration into Cape Colony.—Publication of the Act passed by the Government of Cape Colony imposing restrictions on immigration into that Colony and removal of the restrictions.	127	347	
Indian Civil Service.—Appointments not reserved for this service but held by members thereof.	36 37	93 94	803
———Frequent transfers of divisional officers in charge of (*e.g.*, Head Assistants, Ramnad division, Madura district).	48	130	282 873
——— Publication of the scheme for the grading of District Judges.	247 257	702 728	123, 253 616
——— Publication of the scheme for the training of junior Civilians in judicial work.	257	728	123, 253 409, 616 872
——— See *Provincial Civil Service.*			
Indentured Indians.—See *Emigration.*			
Inquiries into charges against Public Servants.—See *Government Servants' Conduct Rules.*			
Insolvency.—See *Arbuthnot failure.*			
James, Mr., Assistant Surgeon.—See *Maternity Hospital, Madras.*			
Junior Civilians.—See *Indian Civil Service.*			
Kasauli.—See *Pasteur Institute.*			
Kemp, Captain.—Visits of —, District Medical and Sanitary Officer, Cocanada, to Madras and Ootacamund after his assault on K. Krishna Rao. ——— Payment of batta or travelling allowance to — for the above journeys and the nature of his absence consequent on such visits.	333	938	
——— See *Cocanada Assault Case.*			
Kershasp, Mr. P.—See *Conduct of public servants.*			
Kotappakonda riot.—See *Conduct of public servants.*			
Labourers.—See *Emigration.*			
Leapingwell, Lieut.-Colonel.—See *Civil Surgeoncies.*			
Lepers Act, 1899.—Introduction of — into the Presidency ..	295	837	
Lights in Public offices.—See *Public Offices.*			
Low-paid Clerks.—Increase of pay to low-paid servants of Government.	276 285 296 302 306 346 347 374	781 810 839 858 870 969 970 1042 1043	
Macleod, Mr. R.—See *Conduct of public servants.*			
Madura District.—See *Redistribution of Districts.*			
Manavedan Raja, Mr.—See *Provincial Civil Service.*			

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Maternity Hospital, Madras.—Enquiry into the conduct of Mr. James, Assistant Surgeon, towards a Hindu lady patient and the prevention of the recurrence of such incidents in future.	274 287	774 813	
Mauritius.—See *Emigration.*			
Medical aid.—Improvement of — in the Presidency.	358	999	
Medical and Sanitary Departments.—Open letter to the Secretary of State for India by Mr. Sam Manikkam of Saidapet praying for an inquiry into the working of the — of India.	327	927	
Medical Department.—Grievances of officers in the Civil Medical Department.	309	878	
——— Minimizing of the frequent transfers of medical officers	309 326	878 926	
———Retention by civil medical subordinates of the three appointments reserved for Military Assistant Surgeons in the Agency tracts.	327	92[illegible]	
——— See *Civil Assistant Surgeons, Hospital Assistants, Ophthalmic Hospital, Madras,* and *Personal Assistant to the Surgeon-General.*			
Medical examinations.—Appointment of Civil Assistant Surgeons as examiners for examinations of apothecary and hospital assistant grades.	119	326	858
Medical Inspector.—See *Emigration.*			
Medical Officers.—See *Maternity Hospital, Madras, Medical Department* and *Ophthalmic Hospital, Madras.*			
Medical Practitioners.—Scale of fees for assistant surgeons, civil apothecaries and hospital assistants in mufassal municipalities.	368	1025	
Menials.—See *Public Service.*			
Meteorological statistics.—Levy of fees for the inspection by the public of the rain register and — at Ootacamund.	47	126	
Military Assistant Surgeon.—See *Medical Department.*			
Muhammadans in Public Service.—See *Public Service.*			
Natal Emigration.—See *Emigration.*			
Nightwork.—See *Public offices.*			
Official Papers.—Rules for the grant of copies of orders of the Government of India or the Secretary of State on appeals to them by public servants against their dismissal.	265	755	
Ophthalmic Hospital, Madras.—Mr. J. Andrew's report on the alleged irregularities in the hospital and action taken thereon.	337 391	944 1089	
——— Complaints of ill-treatment of patients in the administration of the hospital.	320 325 327	906 921 927	
——— Conduct and duties of the subordinate staff in — ..	363	1013	
——— Prohibition against receipt by officers of the — of fees from patients	320	906	
Pasteur Institute.—Establishment by Government or by private munificence of a — for Southern India at some convenient place.	120	329	
——— Payment of travelling and other expenses and grant of free railway return passes to the poor patients proceeding to the institute at Kasauli.	114 123	310 336	
——— Publication of particulars regarding the institute at Kasauli.	114	310	43, 51
Pay.—See *Low-paid Clerks* and *Public Service.*			
Pension.—See *Conduct of Public servants* and *Public Service.*			
Personal allowance.—Grant of a personal allowance of Rs. 20 *per mensem* to European or Eurasian clerks in other public offices in the Madras City as in the Chief Secretariat.	301	856	
Personal Assistant to the Surgeon-General.—Qualifications for appointment as —.	309	878	922

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Personal Assistant to the Surgeon-General.—Frequent changes in the *personnel* of the office of —.	345	964	
——— Reserve of two or three trained men for this office to secure continuity of the administration of the Medical Department.	345	964	
Physical well-being.—Publication of statistics or information as to deterioration of the physique of the people of the Presidency during the last thirty years.	139	378	
Post Office Savings Bank—See *Arbuthnot failure.*			
Presidency Offices—See *Low-paid Clerks.*			
Printing Work—See *Government Press.*			
Protector of Emigrants in Natal—See *Emigration.*			
Provincial Civil Service.—Appointment of an Indian as District Judge in place of Mr. Venkatramana Poi.	240	683	
——— Appointment of a member of the Indian Civil Service in the place of Mr. Manavedan Raja, District and Sessions Judge, North Arcot, on leave.	108	292	
——— Appointment of a member of the — as Under Secretary to Government.	166 168 263	474 481 750	99
——— Extent of reservation of district and divisional offices for the — in the scheme for three additional districts.	325	924	
——— Satisfaction of the claims of all Indian Civilians in the Presidency to a permanent Collectorate or Judgeship. ——— The handing over to this service of listed appointments declared open to it but held by members of the Indian Civil Service.	36	93	359, 413, 615, 802, 803
Public Buildings—See *Public offices.*			
Public offices.—Hours of attendance for clerks and others in — in the presidency.	295 302	836 857	
——— Nightwork in —	302	857	
——— Precautionary measures for the protection of — from fire.	302	857	
Public Servants— See *Conduct of public servants, Government Servants' Conduct Rules, Low-paid Clerks* and *Official papers.*			
Public Servants Enquiries Act, 1850—See *Conduct of public servants.*			
Public Service.—Subordinate Government service and pension.	168	482	
——— Want of encouragement to Mussalman candidates already in service or wishing to enter service.	272	769	376–378, 466, 601, 813 814, 863, 950
——— See *Low-paid Clerks* and *Personal allowance.*			
Rain Register—See *Meteorological statistics.*			
Ramnad Head Assistant's division—See *Indian Civil Service.*			
Rayapuram Emigration Depot—See *Emigration.*			
Recruiting Agent.—See *Emigration.*			
Redistribution of districts.—Constitution of three new districts and sixteen additional divisions.	325	924	
——— Publication of the papers containing the views of the officers consulted with reference to the creation of the Guntúr district and the fixing of territorial limits of Gódávari, Kistna, Guntúr and Nellore districts.	186	535	
——— Publication of proposals regarding the redistribution of the central and southern districts.	186	536	
——— Readjustment of work by increasing the sub-divisions and tahsildaris instead of collectorates.	61	169	
——— Scheme for the redistribution of districts, revenue sub-divisions and taluks.	146 315	400 889	
——— Splitting up of Gódávari and Kistna into three districts.	57	152	
——— Splitting up of Madura district into two	188	543	

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Redistribution of districts.—The throwing open of district and divisional offices in new districts to the Covenanted or the Provincial Civil Service.	325	924	
——— Transfers of taluks between Salem, Coimbatore and Trichinopoly districts.	233	665	
Religious Endowments.—Amendment of the law regarding religious endowments.	114	311	21,799
——— Revision of the rules framed under the Religious Endowments Act for raising the qualifications of voters and the strength of committees, etc.	46 393	124 1094	
Rules—See *Government Servants' Conduct Rules, Hospital Assistants* and *Religious Endowments.*			
Sam Manikkam of Saidapet—See *Medical and Sanitary Departments* and *Ophthalmic Hospital, Madras.*			
Sankarasubbaiya Pillai—See *Cocanada Assault Case.*			
Sanitary Department—See *Medical and Sanitary Departments.*			
Secret Documents—See *Public Servants.*			
Separation of Executive from Judicial functions—See *Executive and Judicial functions.*			
South Africa—See *Emigration.*			
Spare copies—See *Official papers.*			
Straits Settlements—See *Emigration*			
Strike of workmen—See *Government Press.*			
Savings Bank—See *Government Servants' Conduct Rules.*			
Subordinate officials—See *Ophthalmic Hospital* and *Public Service.*			
Surgeon-General's office—See *Extension of Service, Medical Department,* and *Personal Assistant to the Surgeon-General.*			
Task-work system—See *Government Press.*			
Temple Committees—See *Religious Endowments.*			
Title—See *Conduct of Public Servants.*			
Tours—See *Governor's tours.*			
Time-gun.—Discontinuance of the firing of the — in Vizagapatam.	320 378	904 1054	
Transfers—See *Collectorate of Sea Customs, Hospital Assistants, Indian Civil Service,* and *Medical Department.*			
Transvaal refugees in Madras	28 29	71 72	
Travelling allowance—See *Civil Assistant Surgeons, Hospital Assistants, Kemp, Captain* and *Pasteur Institute.*			
Umfuli, S.S.—See *Emigration.*			
Under Secretary to Government—See *Provincial Civil Service.*			
Victoria Gosha Hospital, Vizagapatam.—Closure of — ..	377 394	1052 1097	
Vizagapatam Civil Hospital.—Inadequacy of funds for the maintenance of — and contributions by the district board.	319	901	
Warm clothing allowance.—See *Hospital Assistants.*			
Wynaad allowance—See *Hospital Assistants.*			

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Bridges.—Construction of a bridge across the Kolab	384	1070	
——— See *Nagavalli Bridge.*			
Buildings—See Residence built for Europeans			
Combination of offices.—The holding by one person of the offices of Consulting Architect to Government, Superintendent, Lighthouse Division, and General Superintendent, Public Works Stores and Workshops.	116	316	884
Consulting Architect to Government—See *Combination of offices.*			
Electric power.—Rivers in the Presidency that can be utilized as sources of —.	138	377	
——— Use of the Gódávari and the Kistna for the development of such power.			

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Government buildings—See *Residence built for Europeans.*			
Kolab bridge—See *Bridges.*			
Lighthouse Division Superintendent—See *Combination of offices.*			
Nagavalli Bridge.—Completion of the —	349	973	
Public Works Stores Superintendent—See *Combination of offices*			
Quarters for officers—See *Residence built for Europeans.*			
Residence built for Europeans.—Rule in regard to the occupation by a native official of a residence built for Europeans when he is appointed to hold the post to which such residence is attached.	85	239	

PUBLIC WORKS (IRRIGATION) DEPARTMENT.

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Anicuts—See *Distribution of water* and *Irrigation.*			
Cauvery bank.—Prohibition against trespass of men and cattle on the — at Kulittalai.	247	701	
Cauvery delta—See *Irrigation—Cauvery* and *Irrigation—Tanjore and Trichinopoly districts.*			
Chapad Project—See *Projects—Cuddapah district.*			
Coleroon—See *Floods in the Coleroon* and *Irrigation—Trichinopoly district.*			
Commission of experts—See *Irrigation — Gódávari.*			
Conservancy of rivers and tanks—See *Irrigation* and *Works.*			
Cuddapah floods—See *Floods in Cuddapah.*			
Delta Superintendents' scheme—Details of the —	126	345	
Distribution of water.—Report of the committee appointed to enquire into the — in the Gódávari delta.	369	1027	806
——— Improvement of the agency in charge of the — in the delta tracts of Gódávari and Kistna.	25 281	61 797	
——— Introduction of the earthen-pipe system in the place of palmyra sluices for the — in the deltaic tracts of the Gódávari and Kistna districts.	319	902	
——— Memorials from the ryots of certain taluks, Kistna district, regarding defects in the scheme of —newly introduced into those taluks.	340	952	
——— Introduction of a new system of — in the Gódávari delta.	6 319 331 341	17 902 936 953	13, 56, 291, 417, 421, 492.
——— Transfer to the Revenue Department of the responsibility of — under certain anicut systems.	25	61	
Drainage—See *Gódávari delta, Irrigation* and *Kistna delta.*			
Dredging operations.—See *Irrigation—Gódávari* and *Kistna Canals.*			
Feeding channel—See *Irrigation—Tinnevelly district.*			
Floods in Cuddapah.—Origin of the — and the extent of damage caused.	137 148	376 407	
Floods in the Coleroon.—Causes of the floods in the Trichinopoly district and the remedying of the defects before the next cultivation season.	158	440	
——— Details of submersion of land in the Trichinopoly district by the —.	149	408	
——— Non-closure of the Panayavaram breach in the Trichinopoly taluk and the damages to lands caused thereby.	87	246	
Floods in the Gódávari.—Damages to Peravaram village from —.	339	950	487
——— See *Peravaram flood bank.*			
Floods in the Kistna.—Extent of damage caused by the floods.	140	382	
Floods in the Pálár.—Extent of damage caused by the floods ..	147	403 404 405	
——— Origin of the floods			
Floods in the Periyár.—Details of the damage caused to lands in Uttamapalaiyam division, Madura district, by the —.	188	544	

PUBLIC WORKS (IRRIGATION) DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Gódávari Canal—See *Irrigation.*			
Gódávari Delta.—Improvement of the drainage of — .	6	16	367, 878
——— See *Irrigation—Gódávari.*			
Gódávari Floods.—See *Floods in the Gódávari and Peravaram Flood-bank.*			
Gódávari Irrigation System—See *Irrigation — Gódávari.*			
Gundlakamma river—See *Projects —Kurnool district.*			
Ghiriyar Project—See *Projects— Tinnevelly district.*			
Irrigation—General.—Abolition of the double supervision over irrigation channels and transfer of such supervision to the revenue authorities solely.	25 145	61 397	
Irrigation—Canara, South.—Irrigation reservoirs or channels maintained by Government in the district.	109	294	
Irrigation—Cauvery.—Colonel Smart's scheme for utilizing the wastage water of the Cauvery for agricultural purposes in the district of Tanjore.	30	75	669
——— Storage scheme to improve the water-supply of the Cauvery delta.	224	643	
Irrigation—Gódávari.—Appointment of a commission of expert public works and revenue officers to report on the subject of the Gódávari irrigation system.	331	936	
——— Construction of locks for the efficient irrigation of certain parts of the Gódávari delta.	58	158	
——— Improvement of irrigation in the central delta ..	6	17	
——— Irrigation of the land available for cultivation in the Polavaram island in the delta.	6	18	
——— See *Distribution of water.*			
Irrigation—Gódávari and Kistna canals.—Closure to these canals in December and January instead of from March to June every year.	117	319	
——— Clearance of silt in these canals by dredging operations without closing them.			
Irrigation—Gódávari district.—Payment to the nirgantis distributing water for irrigation in the Gódávari district out of the village cess fund.	91	256	
Irrigation—Kistna district.—Complaint by the ryots of Srirangapuram and other villages in Bápatla and Tenali taluks of inefficient irrigation of lands under the Srirangapuram branch of the Kommamur canal owing to alteration made in the duty of water.	40	105	
——— See *Projects.*			
Irrigation—Kurnool district.—See *Projects*			
Irrigation—Madura district.—Restoration of the direct connection of Vadagarai channel with the Vaigai river or other arrangements to secure to that channel the benefit of the rain and spring waters of the Vaigai.	288	816	
Irrigation—Tanjore district.—Alteration in the established rules for the regulation of water in the case of Odampokki, a branch of the Vettar river.	196	564	
——— Improvements in irrigation in the district of Tanjore since the introduction of the new settlement.	76	213	668
——— Improvement in the drainage of the river-irrigated portions of the district.	145 225	397 647	155
——— The setting apart of Yerikkattalai land in Tanjore as reservoirs.	78	218	
——— See *Projects.*			
Irrigation—Tanjore and Trichinopoly districts.—Appointment of one Superintending Engineer for the two districts.	158	441	
——— Defects in the drainage system and expenditure on minor repairs to irrigation channels during 1903–1904.	145	397	

PUBLIC WORKS (IRRIGATION) DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Irrigation—Tinnevelly district.—Construction of a feeding channel for Vílattikulam tank in the Tinnevelly district from the Vaipar river.	249, 306, 322, 338	709, 871, 911, 947	
——— Construction of a reservoir near Pápanásam on the Támbraparni.	249	708	
——— Expenditure by the tank restoration party in the district.	249	707	
——— Failure of the Srívaikuntam anicut to divert an equal flow of water into the north and south main channels.	250	710	
——— Improvements to the Kodagan channel by the construction of sand escapes, etc.	250, 266	711, 759	
——— Increase of wet area irrespective of the limit irrigable from existing sources.	249	707	
——— New sources of irrigation brought into existence since the last settlement.	249	707	
——— Utilization of the waters of the Vaipar river by throwing an anicut in the Vilattikulam division or any part of Sáttúr taluk.	249	709	
Irrigation—Trichinopoly district.—Clearance of the "Iyen" channel, Lalgudi.	115, 116	315, 317	
——— Construction of additional sand escapes to the Marudur channel in the Kulittalai taluk.	233	664	
——— Condition of the irrigation channel called Nattu Vaikkal and complaint of the pattadars of Kilikkudu regarding it.	137	375	
——— Failure of water-supply in the district owing to difficulties in diverting water into the high level channels from the Cauvery and appointment of a special officer to elaborate a scheme for remedying the difficulties.	224	645	
——— Improvements to the Kodingal channel	232, 250, 266	663, 712, 759	
——— Improvements of the drainage in the district . .	145, 225	397, 647	
——— See *Projects.*			
Irrigation—Tungabhadra—See *Projects.*			
Irrigation—Vizagapatam district.—Improvement of irrigation facilities in the Vizagapatam district through the Sarada and Varaha rivers and the Kondakarla Ava.	260, 292	740, 828	
Irrigation Channels—See *Irrigation.*			
Irrigation Reports.—Insertion in — of information regarding the average water-rate levied in the Presidency.	28, 39	68, 103	
Iyen Channel—See *Irrigation—Trichinopoly district.*			
Kistna Canal—See *Irrigation.*			
Kistna Delta.—Improvement of the drainage of —	6	16	367, 878
Kistna Floods—See *Floods in the Kistna.*			
Kodagan Channel—See *Irrigation—Tinnevelly district.*			
Kodingal Channel—See *Irrigation—Trichinopoly district.*			
Kolair Lake.—Completion of the project of improvements to the — and the effect of the outlay on such improvements.	40	104	126, 258, 259, 274, 292, 877
——— Expenditure incurred in connection with the conservancy of the — for the last four years.	281	796	
——— Public Works Department schemes for reducing the flood-levels of the —.	281	796	
Kommamur Canal—See *Irrigation—Kistna district.*			
Kurnool-Cuddapah Canal—See *Projects.*			
Locks—See *Irrigation—Gódávari.*			
Markapur tank—See *Irrigation—Kurnool district.*			
Marudur Channel—See *Irrigation—Trichinopoly district.*			
Mulliyar Extension Scheme—See *Projects.*			
Nattu Vaikkal—See *Irrigation—Trichinopoly district.*			

PUBLIC WORKS (IRRIGATION) DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Nirgantis—See *Irrigation—Gódávari district.*			
Odampokki—See *Irrigation—Tanjore district.*			
Pálár—See *Floods in the Pálár.*			
Panayavaram breach—See *Floods in the Coleroon.*			
Peddapasupula Project—See *Projects.*			
Peravaram flood-bank.—Repairs to the flood-bank or construction of other protective works in Peravaram village, Gódávari district, to preserve the village from floods.	339 356	950 992	
Periyár—See *Floods in the Periyár.*			
Polavaram island—See *Irrigation—Gódávari.*			
Professional contractors—See *Works.*			
Projects.—Kistna project ..	315	891	
—— Midkur branch of the Kurnool-Cuddapah canal ..	53	141	
—— Tungabhadra project ..	315 323	891 913	698, 670
—— *Cuddapah district.*—Completion of the Chapad irrigation project.	3	8	834
—— Peddapasupula project ..	56	149	
—— *Kurnool district.*—Stages of the Thokapalli and Velgode projects.	59	159	
—— Execution of the project of connecting the Markapur tank with the Gundlakamma river as a famine measure.	201	581	
—— *Tinnevelly district.*—Resumption of the investigation of the Ghiriyar project.	266	757	
—— *Tanjore district.*—Mulliyar extension scheme ..	159	443	
—— *Trichinopoly district.*—Coleroon extension scheme ..	159	443	
Projects—See *Irrigation.*			
Reservoirs—See *Irrigation.*			
Sand Escapes—See *Irrigation—Trichinopoly district.*			
Sarada River—See *Irrigation—Vizagapatam district.*			
Silt clearance—See *Irrigation.*			
Smart, Colonel—See *Irrigation—Cauvery.*			
South Canara—See *Irrigation.*			
Srivaikuntam Anicut—See *Irrigation—Tinnevelly district.*			
Superintending Engineer—Irrigation—See *Tanjore and Trichinopoly districts.*			
Támbraparni river—See *Irrigation—Tinnevelly district.*			
Tanjore Irrigation—See *Irrigation—Cauvery* and *Irrigation—Tanjore district.*			
Thokapalli Project—See *Projects—Kurnool district.*			
Tinnevelly Irrigation—See *Irrigation.*			
Tungabhadra Project—See *Projects.*			
Vadagarai Channel—See *Irrigation—Madura district.*			
Vaigai River—See *Irrigation—Madura district.*			
Vaipar River—See *Irrigation—Tinnevelly district.*			
Varaha River—See *Irrigation—Vizagapatam district.*			
Velgode project—See *Irrigation Projects—Kurnool district.*			
Village cess-fund—See *Irrigation—Gódávari district.*			
Vilattikulam tank—See *Irrigation—Tinnevelly district.*			
Water distribution—See *Distribution of water* and *Irrigation.*			
Vizagapatam—See *Irrigation.*			
Water-rate—See *Irrigation Reports.*			
Works.—The carrying out of works connected with the conservancy of rivers and tanks by the villagers concerned instead of by professional contractors.	79	220	
Yerikkattalai land—See *Irrigation—Tanjore district.*			

PUBLIC WORKS (RAILWAY) DEPARTMENT.

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Accidents.—Fencing of the lines in the working of the Madras and South Indian Railway Companies to prevent accidents to men and cattle.	251	714	961
—— Statistics as to — to men and cattle caused by want of fencing on the South Indian and Madras Railways.			

PUBLIC WORKS (RAILWAY) DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Accidents.—Koduru Railway collision case.—Publication of the report and proceedings of the committee of inquiry on the case.	275	778	581
——— Judgments of the Sessions Judge of Cuddapah in the case.	287	814	
———. Desirability of having joint enquiries presided over by independent judicial officers.	287	814	
——— Measures for preventing—	287 106	814 287	
——— *Mangapatnam Railway disaster.*—Appointment and constitution of the committee that enquired into the disaster and the proceedings of that committee and details of the disaster and publication of the papers.	98 103 103 129	275 284 285 353	581
——— Appointment of a committee of official and non-official gentlemen to enquire into causes, etc., of the disaster with one of the High Court Judges as president.	98 103	275 284	
——— Failure to take the foundations of the Mangapatnam bridge to harder soil.	105	286	
——— Report of the Railway District Engineer as to the soundness or otherwise of the structure of the Mangapatnam bridge.	103	285	
——— Rules to regulate the system of patrol by gang maistry and by his men on rainy nights.	103	285	
——— Tramway-railway collision at Periamet, Madras City.	286	812	
Accommodation—See *Traffic.*			
Assault—See *Traffic.*			
Bridges.—Provision on railways of permanent watchmen at — throughout the year.	106	287	
——— Survey of the north-east line of the Madras Railway from Ongole to Nellore for construction of new — to prevent breaches on the line by floods.	299	852	
——— See *Accidents* and *Traffic.*			
Buildings—See *Land Acquisition.*			
Calicut. } See *Projects.*			
Cannanore. } See *Projects.*			
Cattle trucks—See *Traffic.*			
Chicacole—See *Projects.*			
Collisions—See *Accidents.*			
Enquiries—See *Accidents.*			
Expenditure on Railway lines.—Allotment of disproportionately small sums for the Madras Presidency both for the improvement of open lines and for the construction of new lines.	328	931	
Fares—See *Traffic.*			
Fencing of Railway lines—See *Accidents.*			
Gunupur—See *Projects.*			
Head light for Engines—See *Traffic.*			
Indo-Ceylon communications.—Appointment of a committee to report on the question of —. ——— Correspondence about —.	297	844	
——— Representations against the Ramesvaram-Mannar route and in favour of Point Calimere-Jaffna route.	270 296 297	765 841 844	
Intermediate class of carriages—See *Traffic.*			
Joint Enquiries—See *Accidents.*			
Kalikiri—See *Projects.*			
Koduru Railway collision case—See *Accidents.*			
Kumbakónam— } See *Projects.*			
Kurnool— } See *Projects.*			
Ladies' Carriages—See *Traffic.*			
Land Acquisition—Acquisition in Madras City of the land covered by McGasken street and others for enlarging the office premises of the Madras Railway Company and memorial from the inhabitants against the acquisition.	234 296 299	667 840 850	

PUBLIC WORKS (RAILWAY) DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Latrine accommodation—See *Native Passengers' comfort.*			
Light railway—See *Projects.*			
Mangapatnam Railway disaster—See *Accidents.*			
Mannárgudi—See *Projects.*			
Marina Loop Railway—See *Projects.*			
Native Passengers' comfort—*Madras Railway.*—Absence of bathing and dining accommodation at Bitragunta and Bápatla stations to the Indian travelling public.	300	853	431, 807
——— *South Indian Railway.*—Complaint by M.R.Ry. C. V. Viswanatha Sastri about the carrying of third-class passengers in cattle trucks.	152 152 156 239	421 422 434 680	
——— Latrine accommodation for third-class passengers in trains.	136	371	
——— Over-crowding of third-class passengers and increase of rolling-stock.	239	680	
——— See *Traffic.*			
Nidamangalam—See *Projects.*			
Office buildings—See *Land Acquisition.*			
Overcrowding—See *Native Passengers' comfort.*			
Párvatipuram—See *Projects*			
Patrolling of lines—See *Accidents* and *Traffic.*			
Projects—Veto by Government of the proposal of the District Board of Tanjore to open a railway line from Vedáranniyam to Nidamangalam in favour of another from Mannárgudi to Kumbakónam.	212	609	
——— Completion of the Chicacole-Gunupur and Chicacole-Párvatipuram lines.	328	931	
——— Completion of the Raipur-Vizianagram line ..	328	931	647
——— Construction of a light railway from Kurnool Road station to Kurnool.	56	148	647
——— Construction of a railway connecting Kalikiri on the South Indian Railway with Ráyachóti in the Cuddapah district.	3	9	647
——— Construction of the Párvatipuram-Raipur line ..	384	1069	
——— Marina Loop Railway.— Alignment of —.	122 135	335 370	
——— New lines of railway under construction in 1909–1910.	384	1069	
——— Projects undertaken by District Boards and grant of Government loans therefor.	159	442	
——— Suspension of the Calicut-Cannanore Railway work.	20	52	
Raipur—See *Projects.*			
Rama Rao, Raja T.—See *Traffic.*			
Rameswaram-Mannár route—See *Indo-Ceylon communications.*			
Ráyachóti—See *Projects.*			
Rolling-stock—See *Traffic.*			
Roofing of overbridges—See *Traffic.*			
Tanjore District Board Railways—See *Projects.*			
Third-class fare—See *Traffic.*			
Ticket Checkers—See *Traffic.*			
Traffic—*General*—Introduction in the railways in this Presidency of a rule prohibiting travelling ticket checkers from interfering with passengers in female carriages.	20	51	
——— Provision for patrolling the line during nights throughout the season rains.	106	287	
——— Regulations in force on the subject of slowing down when driving over bridges.	106	287 288	
——— *East Coast Railway.*—Abolition of the intermediate class of carriages in a portion of —.	53	143	
——— The inconveniences to which Mr. Lal Mohan Ghose and his two daughters were put at Kávali station.	156	433	

PUBLIC WORKS (RAILWAY) DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Traffic—General.—Assault on Raja T. Rama Rao by a first-class European passenger in the North-East mail.	76	212	
——— Assault on a Muhammadan third-class passenger by a European first-class passenger.	192	555	
——— *Madras Railway.* Inconvenience in the train service between Madras and Calicut.	63	175	
——— *South Indian Railway.*—Existing system of bridge-watching and line-patrolling.	106	288	
——— Expenditure on rolling stock	239	680	
——— Enhancement of the third-class fare for passengers ..	46	123	
——— Irregularities in train services	365	1,018	
——— Improvement of accommodation for passengers at the Tuticorin railway station.	270	765	
——— Inconvenience caused by the absence of provision of ladies' carriages on trains.	75	210	517
——— Provision of powerful headlight for engines ..	106	287	
——— The roofing of wooden overbridges on the several railways in India and of those at the Tiruválúr and Máyavaram junction stations.	16 46	45 122	} 955
Train services.—See *Traffic.*			
Tuticorin railway station.—See *Traffic.*			
Vedaranniyam.—See *Projects.*			
Viswanatha Sastri, C. V.—See *Traffic—South Indian Railway.*			
Vizianagram.—See *Projects.*			
Watchmen.—See *Bridges* and *Traffic.*			

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Abkári—See *Arrack shops, Liquor shops* and *Toddy shops.*			
Abkári Administration.—See *Liquor shops.*			
Abkári Department.—See *Salt, Abkári and Customs Department.*			
Abkári license.—Withdrawal of the recognition of Mr. Grove as a brewer at Coonoor on the Nilgiris.	276	782	
Abkári policy.—See *Toddy.*			
Abkári rules.—The fixing by Government of the maximum price at which licensees must sell liquor, opium or intoxicating drugs.	30	76	
Accounts.—Language in which — should be kept.—See *Income-tax.*			
Achukattu lands.—See *Water-rate.*			
Acting allowance.—See *Deputy Collectors.*			
Administration of estates.—The entrustment by Government of the management of the properties of the late Kunhi Kelappan Mannanar of Eravasi desom, Kanhilari amsam, Chirakkal taluk, Malabar district, to Chirakkal Raja, and grant of maintenance allowance for his children.	222	637	
——— See *Court of Wards.*			
Advances.—Formulation of a scheme for giving to artizans — as in the case of agriculturists.	73	203	
——— See *Agriculturists' loans.*			
Agricultural banks.—Establishment of —	34	86	75, 610, 614, 798.
Agricultural bulletins.—See *Agriculture.*			
Agricultural College, Coimbatore.—Pupils in —	388	1,081	
——— See *Agricultural training* and *Court of Wards.*			
Agricultural College, Saidapet—See *Agriculture.*			
Agricultural condition—of Tanjore	10	29	
——— See *Agriculture* and *District Administration.*			
Agricultural education.—See *Agriculture.*			
Agricultural farms.—Establishment of — in the Presidency ..	{ 3 71	10 197	} 58, 245
——— Location of a farm at Karur instead of at Coimbatore.	146	401	

REVENUE DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I
Agricultural farms.—Opening of an experimental farm and employment of agricultural experts to teach the cultivators improved methods of cultivation in Malabar and other districts.	71, 162	197, 451, 452	
——— Starting of demonstration and experimental farms in the larger estates under the Court of Wards.	357	997	
——— See *Agriculture.*			
Agricultural Gazette.—Publication in the Presidency of a monthly vernacular — similar to that published in the Central Provinces.	97	272	
Agricultural implements.—See *Agriculture.*			
Agricultural indebtedness.—See *Indebtedness of tenants.*			
Agricultural labourers.—Complaint by the landholders in Tanjore and other districts against the emigration of — in the midst of cultivation season.	119	325	
Agricultural produce.—Exemption of —, from attachment or sale in execution of decree.	363, 381	1010, 1062	
Agricultural school } *Agricultural stations* } —See *Agriculture.*			
Agricultural training.—Training of men in the Agricultural College, Coimbatore, by the Court of Wards for the estates under them.	357	997	
———Training of tahsildars in agriculture prior to appointment.	304	862	
——— Training of village munsifs who are agriculturists at an agricultural school.	260	738	
Agriculture.—Appointment of trained men to visit villages and discuss with ryots improved methods of cultivation.	142	390	
——— Article by Mr. A. Chatterton in the "*Indian Review*" on agricultural education.	143	391	
——— Compulsory instruction in the elements of — in the primary and lower secondary schools.	77, 143	214, 391	
——— Dissemination of agricultural knowledge among the masses by establishing schools with small experimental farms attached.	143	391	
———Employment of an additional European Agriculturist in the Presidency.	3	10	
——— Free cutting of babul (Karuvai) trees on *poramboke* lands by ryots in Tanjore and other wet districts for agricultural implements.	78, 115	217, 313	
——— Publication in the District Gazettes of vernacular translations of agricultural and other technical bulletins and free distribution thereof.	235	670	
——— Inclusion of a course of agricultural studies among the subjects prescribed for the Revenue Test examination.	304	862	
——— Location in the Periyár tracts of one of the five agricultural experimental stations recently sanctioned.	162	454	389
——— Opening of an agricultural school at Samalkót ..	259	737	
——— Publication in pamphlet form of results of work done in the experimental farms and distribution thereof among the ryots.	142	390	
——— Recommendations of Sir Edward Buck in regard to agricultural education.	77	214	389
——— Spread of agricultural education by strengthening the institution at Saidapet or by establishing one or two similar institutions in well selected localities of the Presidency.	142	389	
——— See *Agricultural labourers, Agricultural training, Cattle, Cattle farms, Cattle shows, Court of Wards* and *Seed depots.*			
Agriculturists —See *Agriculture* and *Agriculturists' loans.*			
Agriculturists' loans.—Grant of loans to agriculturists in affected districts for sinking wells.	2	7	

REVENUE DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Pages.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Agriculturists' loans.—Grant of loans without interest to pattadars not paying over Rs. 30 for reclaiming lands or for rebuilding houses, affected by the floods in the Pálár.	148	406	
Alienation of land.—See *Land.*			
Allowances.—See *Administration of estates, Deputy Collectors, Deputy Tahsildars, Malikhana allowance* and *Travelling allowance.*			
American Cotton.—See *Cotton.*			
Anantapur Forest Administration	351	978	
Anantapur settlement.—See *Settlement.*			
Appeals.—From the orders of Collectors to the Board of Revenue and from the Board's orders to Government.	190	551 552	
——— Authority to Collectors to hear — against the decisions of forest settlement-officers.	88	250	
——— See *Assessment* and *Settlement.*			
Arni Estate.—See *Impartible Estates.*			
Arrack shops.—Licenses for — during festivals	378	1,053	
——— Statistics as to — in municipal and local board areas.	375	1,044	
Arrears of Land Revenue.—Amount of excess collections of — in the taluk of Walavanad.	111	300	
——— Attachment of a cooking vessel in Tirumathamkannu, Angadipuram amsom, in the taluk of Walavanad.	112	305	
——— Attachment of puja vessels in the temple of Kolathur in Walavanad taluk for —.	112	303	
——— Desecration by a low caste revenue inspector of the Hindu temples at Parangode and Srikrishnapuram in the taluk of Walavanad in attaching the movable properties therein for —.	112	302	
——— Distraint for — in Walavanad taluk for *fasli* 1311.	111	300	
——— Distraint of the copper drum in the temple of Kuruvampallam in Walavanad taluk for —.	112	304	
——— Employment of coercion for the recovery of —.	83	234	
——— Number of cases where the properties of both the pattadars and the occupants of lands were simultaneously attached and proceeded against for — for *fasli* 1311 in Walavanad taluk.	111	300	
——— Number of distraints of movables for the collection of — for *fasli* 1311 in the taluk of Walavanad.	111	300	
——— Recovery of arrears written off from the tangedu bark lessees.	352 362	981 1,009	
——— Remissions of — on account of floods in the Kistna.	140	382	
——— See *Famine, Remissions, Sales of Land* and *Suits.*			
Art industries.—See *Industries.*			
Artesian Wells.—See *Wells.*			
Artizans.—See *Advances.*			
Aruppukkottai Deputy Tahsildar's office.—See *Land acquisition.*			
Assessment.—Calculation of the yield of a field in the Gódávari delta for the purpose of granting remissions of —.	90	255	
——— Collection of — on lands under the Gooty tank, Anantapur district, left uncultivated on the advice of the local authorities.	238	678	
——— Difficulties in the recovery of — on lands in Malabar that are held under *kanom* demise and grant of power to jenmis to realize the dues from tenants by summary process.	291	824	
——— Disposal of appeal against or objections to the — made by Deputy Commissioners.	3	11	
——— Disposal of appeals preferred by the landholders of Palghat, Walavanad, Kurumbranad and Calicut taluks to the Board of Revenue against the orders of the special settlement-officer regarding — of lands for *fasli* 1311.	111	301	
——— Excessive assessment of the service inam of the karnam of Butchirajupalem, Vizagapatam taluk, and the lowest rate adopted by the Inam Commissioner.	298	849	

REVENUE DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Assessment.—Exemption from assessment of *yerikkattalai* land in Tanjore.	78	218	
——— Increase of revenue from penal — on *poramboke* cultivation in certain districts and in Gódávari in particular.	356	994	
——— Issue of processes for the collection of prohibitory — on encroachments and amounts collected since 1904.	222	640	
——— Levied from 1900 to 1909 for irrigation by percolation.	375	1047	
——— Levy of double crop — on lands under the Iyen channel in spite of defective water-supply.	115	315	
——— Levy of double crop — wherever the second crop was not raised for want of Periyár water in the Madura district.	155	430	
——— Levy of prohibitory — after notice to Government of the decision of the High Court declaring the levy of such assessment illegal.	194	560	
——— Levy of penal — by jamabandi officers for encroachments on *poramboke* (assessed waste and communal) lands.	144 222	393 640	214, 329
——— Method of assessing a survey number when only a portion of it is cultivated.	90	255	
——— Observations of Diwan Bahadur Raghunatha Rao on the excessive — of dry and wet lands in Tanjore.	182	525	
——— On seed-bed tanks used as nurseries in Tanjore.	133 243	364 693	
——— On seed-beds in Malabar.	242	689	
——— On village service lands in the proprietary estates of the Gódávari district in adverse possession of persons unconnected with the office.	125	342	
——— Postponement of payment of — on certain lands affected by the floods in the Pálár.	148	406	
——— Prohibition of excess revenue collections except in certain cases.	201	579	
——— Prohibitory or penal — before and after Madras Land Encroachment Act, 1905.	375	1,046	
——— Reduction of — when oil-engine pumping is used ..	369	1,028	
——— Remission of second crop rate or the levy of consolidated wet — in the Kistna or Guntúr district when only one wet crop is raised.	282	801	
——— Revision of — of lands containing palmyra trees in Tinnevelly district.	18	49	
——— See *Arrears of Land Revenue*, *Encroachments*, *Famine*, *Land Revenue*, *Remissions*, *Settlement* and *Water-rate*.			
Assistant Collector's office.—See *Establishment.*			
Attachment.—See *Agricultural produce* and *Arrears of land revenue.*			
Avanashi Taluk.—See *Taluks.*			
Azimuddin & Co., H.—See *Salt.*			
Babul tree (Karuvai).—See *Agriculture.*			
Bangle earth.—Change in the system of disposal of — ..	59	161	
Bank.—See *Agricultural banks*, *Grain banks* and *Land bank.*			
Batta.—See *Travelling allowance.*			
Beer.—See *Testing of salt and beer.*			
Bellary District.—See *Cattle Mortality.*			
Berikai Estate ward.—See *Court of Wards.*			
Board of Revenue.—See *Appeals*, *Assessment* and *Petitions.*			
Board's Standing Orders.—See *Ryotwari Tenure* and *Standing Orders of the Board of Revenue.*			
Bombay Salt.—See *Salt.*			
Breweries.—See *Abkári license.*			
Buck, Sir Edward.—See *Agriculture.*			
Buildings.—See *Land acquisition*, *Taluk office, Tindivanam* and *Taluk office, Uttangarai.*			

REVENUE DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Carts.—See *Impressment of carts.*			
Cattle.—Condition of — in districts adjoining Madras ..	234	669	
——— Disposal of —, sheep and goats by the people in Anantapur district to butchers from Bangalore and other places, during the last two years owing to oppression at the hands of the forest subordinates.	188 202 203	542 582 584	
——— Impounding of — in the Trichinopoly district at the instance of forest officers and Public Works subordinates and pound fines levied.	298	847	
——— Inclusion of the improvement of the breed of — in the experimental programme of agricultural farms.	71	197	
——— See *Cattle-mortality*, *Catte-shows*, *Cattle-stands*, *Famine* and *Veterinary hospitals and dispensaries.*			
Cattle-disease.—See *Veterinary hospitals and dispensaries* and *Civil Veterinary department.*			
Cattle farms.—Starting of — in each district or groups of districts.	71	198	
Cattle-mortality.—In Bellary district	353	983	
——— In Gódávari district	99	278	
——— In Malabar.	367	1,022	
——— See *Fodder.*	382	1,066	
Cattle-shows.—Inauguration of — in each district or groups of districts.	71	198	
Cattle-stands.— Publication of a statement as to the extent of — and the number of cattle in the villages in the deltas of the Gódávari.	82	229	
——— Report on the condition of the — in the deltaic villages of the Gódávari district.	99	278	
Cause of action.—See *Suits.*			
Ceded districts.—See *Famine.*			
Cement.—See *Industries—Cement.*			
Census charges.—Principle of debiting to municipalities a proportion of the —.	84	236	
Chatterton, Mr. A.—See *Agriculture* and *Industries.*			
Chirakkal Raja.—See *Administration of estates.*			
Chit companies.—See *Income-tax.*			
Chrome-tanning.—See *Indusries—Tanning.*			
Circuit.—See *Deputy Tahsildars* and *Tahsildars.*			
Circulars.—See *Forest cases* and *Forest Department.*			
Civil Veterinary department.—Breeding operations in the —.	29	73, 74	
——— Duties of the Superintendent of the — .. .. ——— Provision in the department for the treatment of prevention of contagious diseases.	29	74	
——— Scheme for the improvement of the —	367	1,022	
——— Staff and expenses of the department .. .. ——— Stock Inspectors in the department and the nature of their work.	29	74	
Coleroon.—See *Floods in the* —.			
Collector.—See *Appeals.*			
Collectors' offices.—Appointments to the office of head-writer in —.	86	242	
Collector of Malabar.—See *Communications.*			
Collectorate of Sea Customs, Madras.—Frequent changes in the personnel of the —.	49	134	
Collectorates.—See *Printing work.*			
College of Engineering.—See *Industries—Metal.*			
Communal lands.—See *Encroachments.*			
Communications.—Circular of the Collector of Malabar enjoining the adoption of a form in which the District Collector and his subordinates are to be addressed.	185	531	
Compensation.—See *Floods in the Periyar* and *Forest cases.*			
Competitive examination.—See *Salt, Abkári and Customs Department.*			

REVENUE DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in volume I.
Compounding fee.—For cases of illicit browsing in Guntur district	372 379	1,036 1,057	
—— Rules for the fixing of — by forest officers	50 60 351 362 379	137 162 977 1,007 1,057	
Conduct of public servants.—See *Arrears of Land Revenue, Dismissal of public servants* and *Salt, Abkári and Customs Department.*			
Conferences.—See *Famine, Forest rules* and *Liquor shops.*			
Contagious diseases.—See *Civil Veterinary Department.*			
Cotton.—Deterioration of indigenous varieties of cotton in the Presidency and establishment of an experimental farm for the growth of American and Egyptian cotton in the largest cotton-growing districts.	82	230	
—— Improvement of the cultivation of cotton ..	143	392	
Cotton Industry.—See *Industries—Weaving.*			
Court-fee stamp.—See *Stamp fees.*			
Court of Wards—(General).—Desirability of sending the minors to Coimbatore where an Agricultural College and experimental farms have been established.	289	818	
—— Discontinuance of the practice of sending minors under the — to Ootacamund once a year.	289	818	399, 400, 570, 571
—— Inspection of the Newington school by the Inspector of Schools, Madras Circle, or other educational officer.	289	818	
—— Instruction in agriculture to the minors under the —.	77	214	
—— Introduction of improved methods of agriculture in the estates under the management of the —.	77	214	
—— Permission for visits of friends and relatives of the minors.	34	84	
—— See *Agricultural farms* and *Agricultural training.*			
Court of Wards—Berikai estate ward.—Arrangement for the performance of a religious ceremony by the ward at Newington.	170	488	
—— Complaints regarding ill-treatment by Mr. Morrison of the —.	170	488	
—— Removal of the — to Newington from Bangalore ..	170	488	
—— *Kálahasti and Karvetnagar estates.*—Administration of the —.	52 62	140 171	
—— Cost of establishment in the — before and after the Court assumed charge of them.	109	296	
—— Debts due by the — when the — assumed management of them and their liquidation since.	52 62 109 208 215	140 171 296 601 614	
—— Disallowance by the Collector of the claims made to him by menial servants for arrears of pay and by suppliers of the necessary articles of life for moneys due to them.	110	296	
—— Experiment in the direction enunciated in Mr. Wyndham's Irish Land Bill in the case of cultivating ryots of —.	141	384	
—— Low percentage of cultivation to holdings in the Kárvetnagar estate.	140	383	
—— Purchase by Government of — to afford facilities to ryots to become purchasers and proprietors of occupancy holdings.	141	384	
—— Reasons for non-payment to creditors of amount in the hands of the Decree Collector.	208	601	
—— Season in the — during last four years.	208	601	
—— Withdrawal of the Court from the management of the —.	208	601	

REVENUE DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Court of Wards—Shulagiri Estate ward.—Enlistment of — in the army.	34	84	
Court of Wards Amendment Act, 1899.—Working of the —.	52	140	
Court of Wards Bill, Madras,—Publication of the correspondence regarding the framing of the Madras Court of Wards Bill of 1901.	56	150	
Cowdung.—See *Fuel* and *Manure.*			
Crops.—Average outturn of the staple — in the Ceded districts.	80	225	
——— Decrease in the crop outturns of the staple produce in the Northern Circars.	69	191	
——— Destruction of — by wild elephants in Coimbatore and other places.	15 369	42 1,026	
——— See *Famine.*			
Crop experiments.—See *Settlement—Gódávari.*			
Cuddapah floods.—See *Floods.*			
Cultivation.—See *Agricultural farms, Assessment, Forest land, Pasture grounds, Podu cultivation* and *Waste land.*			
Cultivation—Kistna district.—Uncultivated land in the district on account of saline nature of the soil and defective water-supply.	356	993	
Cultivation—Tinnevelly district.—Increase of wet area irrespective of the limit irrigable from existing sources.	249	707	
Cultivation—South Canara.—Improvements in — and taxation thereof.	109	294	
Customs Act.—Prohibition against carrying substances intended for personal use as medicines from French to British territories.	47	127	
——— Prosecution of a Brahman lad at the Peralam junction station for being in possession of an electuary containing ganja.	47	127	
Customs Department.—See *Salt, Abkári and Customs Department.*			
Customs—Land.—Examination by male customs officers of the apparel and luggage of female passengers proceeding by railway from British limits to French territories.	10	27	
Date palm.—Wild date palms tapped for the manufacture of liquor and the promotion of the industry of manufacturing refined sugar out of date-palm juice or date-rab as in Bengal.	71	199	
Defalcations.—See *Ganjám defalcation case.*			
Dehra Dun Forest School.—See *Scholarship notification.*			
Delegation of powers.—See *Village Courts Act,* 1888.			
Depots at railway stations.—See *Industries* and *Seed depots.*			
Deputy Collectors.—Amendment of the Civil Service Regulations and Board's Standing Orders to enable — to draw acting allowance when officiating in higher grades.	199	572	
——— Restriction on fresh appointments of —	34	85	
Deputy Collector's Office.—See *Establishment.*			
Deputy Tahsildars.—Minimum period of circuit for a month to —.	215	615	
Deputy Commissioner of Abkári.—See *Testing of salt and beer.*			
——— See *Travelling allowance.*			
Deputy Tahsildar's Office, Aruppukkottai.—See *Land acquisition.*			
Deputy Tahsildar's Office, Palladam.—Location of a deputy tahsildar's office at Palladam.	251	713	
——— See *Head-quarters.*			
Desecration of Hindu Temples.—See *Arrears of Land Revenue.*			
Detection of cases.—See *Salt, Abkári and Customs Department.*			
Dharmagolas.—See *Grain banks.*			
Diamond finds.—Prosecution of the finders of diamonds in the village of Vajrakarur, Gooty taluk, Anantapur district.	238	677	
Director of Industries.—See *Industrial Institution.*			
Dismissal of public servants.—Dismissal from Government service of P. Sriramulu, Sub-Inspector, Salt Department.	31	78	

REVENUE DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Dismissal of Public servants.—Dismissal of B. Venkoba Rao, taluk head accountant at Námakkal, in the Salem district for writing an article to the newspapers.	175	502	
—— Reconsideration by Government of the dismissal of S. Krishnaswami Aiyar, Assistant Inspector, Salt Department.	232	662	
—— Reconsideration of orders dismissing R. S. Ramaswami Aiyar, taluk head accountant, Madura district, for failure to submit a landed property return.	130	357	
Dispensaries.—See *Veterinary hospitals and dispensaries.*			
Distraint.—See *Arrears of Land Revenue.*			
District Administration.—Annual interviews of Collectors with representative ryots for discussing the agricultural and irrigation conditions of the district.	145	398	
District head-quarters.—See *Head-quarters.*			
Divisional charges.—Equalization of the revenue —	67	182	
Drilled wells.—See *Wells.*			
Dunstan, Professor.—See *Industries—Mica.*			
Dyeing.—See *Industries—Weaving.*			
Economic condition.—Report on the — of the rural population of the Presidency.	157	437	
Egyptian Cotton.—See *Cotton.*			
Emigration.—See *Agricultural labourers.*			
Enamelled ware.—See *Industries—Ironware.*			
Encroachments.—Levy of penal charges by jamabandi officers for — on *poramboke* lands.	144	393	
—— On communal lands	222	640	231
Enfranchisement of inams.—See *Inams.*			
English head-accountant.—See *Collector's offices.*			
Ennore factories.—See *Salt.*			
Establishment.—Equalization of the scales of — in the Sub-Collectors', Head Assistants', Assistants' and Deputy Collectors' offices.	67	182	
—— Increase of the pay of the Collector's treasury —.	37	96	
—— See *Revenue officers, Taluk Gumastahs* and *Village establishments.*			
Estates Land Act.—See *Revenue officers.*			
European Agriculturist.—See *Agriculture.*			
European manufacture.—See *Indian manufacture.*			
Excise Committee's recommendations.—See *Salt, Abkári and Customs Department.*			
Exhibition.—See *Industrial —.*			
Experimental farms.—See *Cotton.*			
Factories.—See *Salt —.*			
Failure of crops.—See *Famine.*			
Famine (General)—Deputation of the Settlement Officer of the Board of Revenue or any other officer to enquire into the present state of the ryots in districts affected by scanty rainfall.	205	592	
—— Disagreement in the views of local officers and the Settlement Member of the Board of Revenue as to the existence of famine in Cuddapah, Kurnool, Nellore and Chingleput.	207	595	
—— Districts in which famine is imminent	11	31	
—— Failure of crops in the Circars and the Deccan except under river systems.	329	932	411
—— Failure of crops in the Trichinopoly, Madura, Cuddapah and other districts.	11	30	
—— Famine in North Arcot, Chingleput and Cuddapah districts and introduction of relief operations.	54	146	
—— Guiding principle for the introduction of relief measures.	54	146	384, 941

REVENUE DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Famine (General).—Opening of test works in affected tracts ..	43 329	113 932	
——— Plantation of drought-resisting fodder plants in the Ceded Districts and in other parts of the Presidency.	81	227	
——— Prevalence of — in the Presidency and methods of relief to the poor.	2 43 195 198 215 216 295 329 338 370	7 113 562 571 613 616 835 932 948 1031	941
——— Recommendations of the Famine Commission in regard to the preservation of cattle.	81	226	
——— Tour of the Settlement officer of the Board of Revenue; and of his conference with Collectors and their subordinates in districts affected with scanty rainfall.	205	592	
——— Remissions and suspension of kists on account of —	2 10 21 80 195 198 200 203 215 216 254 260 329 338	6 29 54 225 562 571 577 585 613 616 720 740 932 948	
——— Reports of the Settlement Commissioner on his inspection of the affected districts.	222	639	
——— Sale of rice and other food-grains above warning rates.	329	932	
——— See *Assessment* and *Food-grains*.			
——— (*Ceded Districts*).—Prevalence of — in the districts and relief measures therefor.	80 370	225 1031	411
——— (*Cuddapah*).—Continuance of weavers' relief in Jammalamadugu and establishment of relief works in other places in the district.	51	139	
——— Failure of dry and wet crops in the district	1 2	1 & 2 5	
——— Prevalence of — in the district	1	1	
——— Relief for the weaving community of Proddatur and Jammalamadugu taluks.	2	4	548
——— (*Ganjám*).—Taluks in the district where famine-relief works have been started and the number of persons receiving relief.	338	948	411 483 498 638 639
——— (*Malabar*).—Failure of second crops in Palghat and Ponnáni taluks and remission of revenue in consequence.	254	720	
——— Failure of second crops in the district and grant of remissions therefor.	203	585	411
——— (*North Arcot*).—Conference of the Settlement Member of the Board of Revenue with officials and non-officials at Vellore regarding — in the district.	55	147	

REVENUE DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Famine (Tanjore).—Failure of crops in the district and the grant of remissions and suspensions of kist.	10 21	29 54	411
—— *(Vizagapatam).*—Successive failure of wet crops in the Sarvasiddhi taluk of the district and grant of remissions therefor.	260	740	
Famine-relief works.—Necessity for — in the Ceded Districts and preference to village works therein.	80	225	
Fees—See *Compounding fee, Grazing fees* and *Seigniorage fees.*			
Fines.—Statement of — imposed by Mr. E. Scott, Collector of Anantapur, on the revenue subordinates during the year 1904.	208	600	
—— See *Cattle, Forest cases* and *Proprietary Estates' Village Service Act,* 1894.			
Fire at Chepauk	302	857	
Fisheries.—Investigation into the inland and marine — of the Presidency.	243	694	
Fleming, Mr.—See *Salt, Abkári and Customs department.*			
Floods in the Coleroon.—Submersion of lands on the south bank of the river from —.	149	408	
Floods in Cuddapah.—Details of — and relief to sufferers ..	137	376	
Floods in the Gódávari.—Remissions on lands in Peravaram village affected by —.	339	950	
Floods in the Pálár.—Lands rendered unfit for cultivation by — and remissions of revenue on them.	147 178	405 513	
—— See *Agriculturists' loans* and *Assessment.*			
Floods in the Periyár.—Extent of wet and dry lands that have been damaged in Uttamapalaiyam, and the number of ryots affected and compensated.	188	544	487
—— Publication of the report regarding — and grant of relief to sufferers.	188	544	
Fly shuttle—See *Industries—Weaving.*			
Fodder.—Facilities for the collection of — by ryots in areas where cattle mortality is large.	353	983	
Fodder plants—See *Famine.*			
Food-grains.—Normal, warning and scarcity rates of — for each district.	265	754	412
—— Revision of normal, warning and scarcity rates of —	295 302	835 858	412 412
—— Prices of staple — in the Cuddapah district		3	
—— Publication of papers relating to revision of normal, warning and scarcity rates of staple —.	364 374	1015 1040	
—— Scarcity and dearness of —	276	780	
Forest Act—See *Forest courts* and *Water sources.*			
Forest Administration.—Recommendations of the Hon'ble Mr. Sim regarding — in Anantapur and Kurnool.	351	978	129, 134
Forest cases.—Determination by the District Forest Officer of the amount of compensation to be awarded by a magistrate.	189	546	
—— Disposed of by the sub-magistrate of Tadpatri in 1903–1904.	187	541	
—— Instructions to subordinate magistrates in the matter of the levy of fines in —.	50 60 187 189 362	137 162 540 546 1008	
—— Severity of sentences passed by the town sub-magistrate of Salem for offences against forest laws.	278	787	
—— Standing order in force in Anantapur and North Arcot districts regarding imposition of fines in —.	60	162	
—— See *Compounding fee.*			
Forest courts.—Constitution of — under the Madras Forest Act, 1882.	88	250	

REVENUE DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Forest department.—Circular orders of Forest Officers in Cuddapah regarding forest cases and grazing fees.	372	1034	
——— Complaints against —.	380	1060	
——— Increase in the expenditure of —	391	1088	
——— See *Forest cases*, *Fuel* and *Grazing fees*			
Forest grievances in South Coimbatore	15	42	
Forest fires.—Causes of — in the Tadpatri taluk, Anantapur district.	202	583	
Forest land.—Transfer to the Revenue department for cultivation of — merely covered with thin scrub and grass.	70	195	
Forest offences—See *Compounding fee* and *Forest cases.*			
Forest oppression in Tinnevelly	380	1060	
Forest prosecutions—For illicit grazing in Guntúr district ..	379	1057	
Forest reserves.—Diminution of grazing areas by the conversion into a reserved forest of hill waste adjoining the village of Perumbakkam, Chingleput district.	285	808	
——— Exclusion of certain tracts from the Bantage reserve in South Canara district.	308	875	
——— Proposals for the preservation or conservation of forests adjoining the sources of rivers, springs and important hill-streams.	330	934	
——— Reservation of narrow strips of land on the Cauvery bank in Trichinopoly district close to cultivated lands and allotment of them for grazing purposes.	226	649	439
——— Transfer of assessed waste lands to *poramboke* for forest purposes in Anantapur.	221	634	
——— See *Cattle, Fuel, Grazing fees, Manure* and *Roads.*			
Forest revenue.—Introduction by the District Forest Officer, Anantapur, of a change in the system of disposal of bangle earth.	59	161	
Forest rules.—Suggestions of the North Arcot District Conference on the working of the —.	59	160	
Forest school, Dehra Dun—See *Scholarship notification.*			
Forest Settlement Officers—See *Appeals* and *Settlement.*			
Fuel.—Discontinuance in Salem of the permit system in regard to head-loads of firewood.	277	786	
——— Facilities to ryots to obtain firewood	352	980	
——— Increase of the price of — by the Forest Department in Kurnool.	255 262	722 744	
——— Issue of permits by landholder for removal of wood or — from his land or forest.	381	1061	
——— Reduction of the cost of firewood supplied in the Bellary depot.	325	923	
——— Reduction of the price of firewood in Kurnool ..	324	918	
——— Sale of firewood by stack instead of by weighment.	255 262	722 919	
——— Substitution of the depot system in the place of the permit system of cutting wood for — in reserved forests in Kurnool.	255 262	722 744	
Fungus disease.—Prevalence of — in Gódávari district in respect of palmyra and cocoanut trees.	262	747	
Furniture—See *Village Munsifs' Courts.*			
Gammie, Mr. G. A.—See *Sisal Hemp.*			
Ganja—See *Customs Act.*			
Ganjám—See *Industries—Weaving.*			
Ganjám defalcation case.—Publication of papers connected with —.	54	144	279
Garstin's scheme.—Improvement of treasury establishments ..	37	96	
Gódávari—See *Floods, Redistribution of districts, Settlement* and *Water-rate.*			
Gódávari Collectorate—See *Head-quarters.*			
Gódávari delta.—Localisation of the *mamúl* wet inam and *zamin* lands entitled to free irrigation in the —.	27	66	

REVENUE DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Gódávari and Kistna deltas.—Amount of irrigated area in —.	26	64	
——— Compensation in the case of lands benefited prior to 1865 by floods or by percolation from sources of irrigation that existed prior to the construction of anicuts.	26	65	
——— Deterioration of soils in —	24	60	
——— Extent of land in — cultivated by direct or indirect flow or percolation which cannot be assessed to water-cess.	13	37	
Grade promotions—See *Deputy Collectors.*			
Grain banks.—Establishment of *dharmagolas* or — in Ceded Districts.	363	1011	
Grazing fees.—Amount of — realized in Anantapur during 1901–1902 and succeeding years.	202	582	
——— Compulsory collection of a minimum amount of — by forest subordinates in Cuddapah.	362	1006	
——— Increase of — in Kurnool and Vizagapatam districts.	318 330	898 933	663
——— Increease of — in the Anantapur district, and the amounts thereof covered by seigniorage fees and compensation taken from trespassers.	180 187	519 539	
——— Reduction of — in Anantapur	180	519	
——— Taking of fresh permits for grazing in adjoining reserves, when permits once issued are cancelled without the fees being refunded in such cases.	380	1058 1059	
Grove, Mr.—See *Abkári license.*			
Gunn, Veterinary Major W. D.—See *Cattle-stand.*			
Guntur settlement—See *Settlement.*			
Hamilton, the Hon'ble Mr. D. M.—Suggestions of — regarding grain banks.	363	1011	
Harbour works—See *Industries—Cement.*			
Havell, Mr. E. B—See *Industries—Weaving.*			
Head Assistant Collector's office—See *Establishment.*			
Head-quarters.—Location of the — of the Pattukkóttai taluk, Tanjore district, at Pattukkóttai, instead of at Tanjore.	22	55	963
——— Transfer of the — of the Gódávari Collectorate from Cocanada to Rajahmundry.	91	260	48
——— Transfer of the — of the Palladam taluk, Coimbatore district, to Tiruppur.	208	599	852 866
Head-writer—See *Collector's offices.*			
Holmes, Veterinary Lieutenant—See *Cattle.*			
Impartible Estates.—Estates in respect of which litigation in civil courts was stayed by section 6 of the - - Act, 1902.	124	338	
——— Omission of the estate of Udaiyárpálaiyam from, and the addition of the estate of Arni, to the schedule of the — Bill.	112	307	
Impartible Estates Bill—See *Impartible Estates.*			
Impressment of Carts.—Abolition of the system of — in the Ganjám district and revision of the rates of cart-hire prevailing in the district.	262	746	
——— Report of the Collector of Ganjám on —	279	791	
Inamdars.—Statistics in respect of — in the Presidency and their holdings.	314	887	
Inams.—Enfranchisement of — in permanently-settled estates.	96	270	
——— Publication of papers relating to the enfranchisement of village service — .	61 124	165 340	184
——— See *Assessment, Kaval fees, Quit-rents* and *Water-rate.*			
Income-tax.—Assessing of incomes of chit companies to — in Tinnevelly and other districts.	246 267	699 760	
——— Circular of the Collector of Madras in regard to the keeping of accounts by merchants from other provinces in specified languages.	44	114	

REVENUE DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Income-tax.—Effect of the raising of the taxable minimum for —.	146	399	
——— Establishment of panchayats for ascertaining the incidence of — assessments.	131	361	
——— Increase in — in this Presidency as compared with other provinces.	314	886	
——— Increase of — under Part IV of the Income-tax Act.	314 357	886 995	
——— Levy of — from *karaswans* and *kuttis* of chits and *kuris* on the aggregate of the amounts earned by subscribers in interest or discount.	246	699	
——— Levy of — on pensions paid in Native States to the agent of the pensioners of those States residing in British territories.	17	46	674 731
——— Statistics as to assessees to — in 1902–1903 and in 1903–1904 in the districts of Gódávari, Kistna and Vizagapatam.	141	385, 386, 387.	450
——— Statistics as to assessees under Part IV on incomes between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 2,000 before and after the raising of the taxable minimum.	342	955	450
——— Statistics as to — in 1902–1903 and 1903–1904 ..	164 173 177 185 194	462 463 464 465 498 510 533 561	450
Income-tax case.—Treatment of V. Perumal Nayudu of Villupuram by the tahsildar and the Sub-Collector at Tindivanam in connection with an income-tax enquiry.	210	605	
Indebtedness of tenants.—In permanently-settled estates of the presidency.	69	189	
Indian manufacture.—Notification of the Government of India about the preference to be given to Indian manufactured articles over articles not manufactured in India.	320	905	
Indigo.—See *Industries—Indigo.*			
Industrial Conference.—Recommendations of —	369	1028	
Industrial Exhibition.—Periodical — of local manufactures in every Collectorate in the Presidency.	72	202	
Industrial Exhibition — Cocanada.—Instructions to Collectors to take an active interest in the selection and transmission of exhibits of native manufactures to the —.	89	252	
Industrial Exhibition — Madras.—Assistance of Government and their officers to the committee of the —.	136	373	
Industrial Institutions.—Control of — .. .. ——— Transfer of — to the Director of Industries.	370	1029	
Industrial survey—See *Survey.*			
Industries—(General)—Experiment in industrial processes in jails.	387	1076	
——— Provision of depots for exhibiting articles of industries at railway stations and for selling them on commission.	82	231	
——— Publication in the railway guides of the description and prices of the articles procurable in the vicinity of railway stations.	82	231	
Industries—Art.—Establishment of schools of arts with sale-rooms and show-rooms for exhibiting art industries that are extant in the rural parts.	72	201	
Industries—Cement.—Encouragement to — by the use of Madras Portland cement in the harbour improvement works.	127	349	

REVENUE DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Industries—Cotton.—Decline in the quantity of yarn spun in the presidency during 1900–1901.	117	318	
——— See *Cotton.*			
Industries—Indigo.—Prospects of — in Southern India ..	44	115	
Industries—Iron.—Introduction of the manufacture of enamelled ironware into Madras.	97 259	273 736	
——— Investigation of the possibility of profitably working the iron ores of Salem.	258	734	613
——— Opening of an institution to teach people the manufacture of enamelled ironware.	97	273	
——— Value of enamelled ironware imported into Madras from Austria and Germany during the last three years.			
Industries—Jaggery.—Causes of the decline of —	18	49	956
——— See *Toddy.*			
Industries—Metals.—Establishment of an institute of experiments in the — in Madras and the opening of training schools for instructors in the wood, iron and mechanical industries in the workshop of the College of Engineering.	259	735	
Industries—Mica.—Expert opinion as to the existence and quality of the Madras Mica.	72	200	
———Export of mica — in this Presidency			
Industries—Plantain Fibre.—Development of —	133	365	
——— Employment of temporary staff for dissemination of knowledge of the —.			
Industries—Sericulture.—Opening of a sericulture school for adult silk-worm rearers and of weaving classes at Berhampur and other centres of silk-weaving.	258	731	
Industries—Sugar-cane —			
——— Decline in the — in 1902–1903	126	346	
——— Promotion of —.	143 390 44	392 1,087 115	
Industries—Tanning.—Introduction of chrome-tanning into the presidency.	106	289	
——— Levy by the United States of America of an import duty on tanned skins.			
——— Rise in the value of the exports of raw untanned skins and fall in value of the exports of tanned skins.			
——— Steps for reviving — in Madras			
Industries—Weaving.—Establishment of a textile school at Madura to impart instruction in weaving and dyeing to artizan classes.	230	658	
——— Establishment of a weaving school at Madura instead of at Salem.	167	477	
——— Introduction in English factories of mechanical contrivance for the production of laced and embroidered cloths as those manufactured in Salem and the opening of a school in Salem for teaching the weavers that contrivance.	97	274	
——— Introduction of fly-shuttle in the presidency and improvement of native handlooms.	73	204	
——— Opening of a school of weaving and printing in the Palkonda taluk (Vizagapatam district) or the Chicacole taluk (Ganjám district) for the weavers of Ganjám and Vizagapatam.	258	733	
——— Opening of schools of weaving and printing in centres of cotton industry.	258	732	
——— Purchase of Japanese looms and fly-shuttles by Government to explain their working at weaving centres.	230	658	
——— Reconsideration of orders on Mr. Chatterton's scheme and establishment of schools on the lines suggested by him.	162	453	
Inland fisheries—See *Fisheries.*			
Inspectors of Salt and Abkári Revenue—See *Travelling allowance.*			

REVENUE DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Irish Land Bill—See *Court of Wards.*			
Iron. / *Iron ores* / *Iron ware* } See *Industries—Iron.*			
Irrigation—(General).—By oil-engine in the Circars	369 370	1,028 1,030	
——— Legislation to compel ryots to pass on to adjacent fields water received into their fields.	331	936	
——— Subterranean water-supply in the Circars	370	1,030	
——— See *Assessment, District Administration* and *Gódávari and Kistna Deltas.*			
Irrigation—Gódávari.—Conversion of wet land into dry and compensation to owners for the loss sustained.	331	936	
——— Defects in the system of — of wet and dry lands ..	331	936	179
Irrigation—Kistna district.—Improvement of irrigation sources in Gudiváda taluk.	556	993	
Irrigation—Periyar.—Extent of land irrigable and irrigated by the Periyar project.	196	563	
——— Insufficiency of water for agricultural operations for a good portion of the year.	155	430	
Irrigation Tinnevelly district.—Defective irrigation for Kalakad village, Nanguneri taluk.	182	524	
——— Facilities for irrigation since the last settlement ..	249	707	
Irrigation by percolation.—Condition imposed by the Governor-General as to charging water-rate for —.	39	102	
——— Publication of the instructions issued to charge water-rate, under the Madras Irrigation Cess (Amendment) Act, 1900 for crops supposed to be benefited by percolation in Tanjore.	228 228 248	655 653 706	
——— See *Gódávari and Kistna deltas.*			
Irrigation cess.—Amount of voluntary — collected from holders of wet lands under the Cauvery channels, Námakkal taluk, Salem district.	222	638	
Irrigation Cess Act, 1865.—Extent of the power to levy penal cess for water under the —.	246	700	
Irrigation Cess (Amendment) Act, 1900.— Exclusion of ryotwari land in Tanjore delta from —.	226 227	648 652	
——— Opinions of the Board of Revenue and the District officers on the Bill which became —.	25	62	
——— Publication of letter of Government of India communicating assent of Governor-General to —.	39	102	
——— See *Irrigation by percolation* and *Water-rate.*			
Irrigation report—See *Irrigation works.*			
Irrigation works.—Improvement of minor — in Ganjám and Vizagapatam.	357	996	47
——— Insertion in the report on — of information regarding average water-rate.	28 39	68 103	
Jaggery.—Extent of — manufactured during 1904—1909 ..	390	1087	
——— See *Industries—Jaggery* and *Toddy.*			
Jamabandi officers—See *Encroachments* and *Water-rate.*			
Janmam registration—Malabar.—Completion of —	66	181	
Japanese looms—See *Industries—Weaving.*			
Jenmis.—See *Assessment.*			
Kálahasti—See *Court of Wards.*			
Kanom demise lands in Malabar—See *Assessment.*			
Karaswans.—See *Income-tax.*			
Karnams—See *Survey School* and *Proprietary Estates' Village Service Act,* 1894.			

REVENUE DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume 1.
			579
Karnams—Tanjore.— Petition of — for increase of salary ..	355	990	
Karvetnagar—See *Court of Wards.*			
Kaval fees—Collection of — on inam lands in the district of Tanjore.	189	548	
Kistbandi.—Reversion to the old system of eight or less number of instalments and supply of printed slips in the vernaculars to ryots showing the amount due for each instalment.	78	216	288 289 416
Kistna—See *Redistribution of districts, Settlement* and *Water-rate.*			
Kistna delta.—Rule regarding assignment of unoccupied land in the — subject to the payment of a consolidated wet assessment.	4	13	
Kists.—Remission and suspension of —. See *Arrears of land revenue, Assessment* and *Famine.*			
Krishnaswami Aiyar.—See *Dismissal of public servants.*			
Kudis.—See *Mirasidars in Tanjore.*			
Kuncham—See *Settlement.*			
Kunhunni—Meethangatt Kunnummal—See *Malikana Allowance.*			
Kuris—See *Income-tax.*			
Kurnool—See *Forest Administration* and *Settlement.*			
Kuttis—See *Income-tax.*			
Land.—Alienation of tank-beds and village puntas in Gódávari and other districts.	81	228	
—— Allotment of culturable unoccupied — to landless labourers in the congested rural parts.	70	194	
—— Transfer of land under ryotwari settlement to money-lending and other classes.	68	188	
—— See *Forest land* and *Kistna delta.*			
Land acquisition.—Acquisition of certain lands of certain Kummavar Naick inhabitants in Aruppukkóttai (Madura district) for the construction of a deputy tahsildar's office.	326	925	
—— Acquisition of lands required for channels and roads in the district of Madura out of the lands sold by Government in the Periyár affected region.	204 205	588 589 590	
Land-bank.—Establishment of a — for mainly financing *zamindars* and concessions to be granted to it.	290	822	
Land customs—See *Customs.*			
Landed Property return—See *Dismissal of Public servants.*			
Landlord and tenant.—Introduction of a Bill to amend the rent law of the Presidency	152	418	
Land Records staff.—Publication of the correspondence regarding the scheme of appointments of — tahsildars and inspectors.	193	558	
—— Cost, term of office and duties of —.	144	395	
Land Registration—Malabar—See *Malabar Land Registration Act* and *Settlement—Malabar.*			
Land Revenue.—Basis of the estimates given in the Resolution of the Board of Revenue on Indian land revenue policy.	170	489	
—— Concessions to ryots in the Northern circars in the collection of —	69	191	
—— Demand and collection of — in the taluk of Walavanad, Malabar district, for *fasli* 1311.	111 112 154	300 304 428	
—— Excess collections of — for *fasli* 1312	181	522	
—— Excess collections in Walavanad taluk, Malabar district for *fasli* 1311.	111	300	
—— Excess collections of — in *fasli* 1309 .. .. —— Issue of instructions to taluk and village officials not to collect more than what is due.	90	254	
—— Limitation on excess collection from ryots —.	201	579	
—— Memorial from the ryots of Molagavalli, Alur taluk, Bellary district, for remission of — for three years on the ground of scanty rainfall.	266 277 282	758 783 800	

REVENUE DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Land Revenue.—Rules regarding redemption of —	38	99	
——— See *Agriculture. Arrears of land revenue, Assessment, Famine, Forest revenue, Pattas, Ryotwari system.*			
Leaf manure—See *Manure.*			
Leave—See *Village officers.*			
Legislation—See *Court of Wards, Irrigation* and *Settlement.*			
Lingam puja—See *Court of Wards.*			
Liquor.—See *Date-palm* and *Abkári rules.*			
Liquor shops.—Closure of one of the two toddy shops in Uravakonda, Gooty taluk, Anantapur district.	219 220	628 629	
——— Number of — opened in the mufassal in the vicinity of the shops of the licensees under the general conditions of sale.	31	77	
——— Reduction and location of — in municipal and other areas, appointment of committees therefor, and their constitution, etc.	359	1003	
——— Refusal of revenue authorities to sanction the opening within municipal limits of — in places objected to by the Municipalities.	74	208	
Loans—See *Agriculturists' loans.*			
Lower Secondary schools—See *Agriculture.*			
Lushington, Mr.—See *Scholarship notification.*			
Madras Industrial Exhibition Committee.—See *Industrial Exhibition, Madras.*			
Malabar—See *Arrears of Land Revenue, Assessment, Cattle-mortality, Famine, Survey* and *Settlement—Malabar.*			
Malabar Compensation for Tenants' Improvements Act, 1899.—Publication of tables of prices of products, etc., under the —.	291	823	
Malabar Land Registration Act.—Irregularities in the working of the —.	64	179	
——— Reasons for the passing of the —	64	177	
——— See *Land Registration—Malabar.*			
Malikhana allowance.—Claim of Meethangatt Kunnummal Kunhunni *alias* Valia Nambiyar of Panur, Malabar district, to a —.	296	838	
Managers of estates—See *Proprietary Estates' Village Service Act, 1894.*			
Mannanar, Kunhi Kelappan—See *Administration of estates.*			
Manure.—Economic use of cowdung as —	352	980	
——— Free supply of leaves for — to the local agricultural community.	60	163	
——— See *Fuel.*			
Marine fisheries—See *Fisheries.*			
Metal Industries—See *Industries—Metals.*			
Minors—See *Court of Wards.*			
Mirasidars in Tanjore.—Change in the designation of the land-holders in Tanjore from mirasidars into kudis.			
Monopoly system—See *Salt.*			
Moore, Mr.—See *Salt, Abkári and Customs Department.*			
Morrison, Mr.—See *Court of Wards.*			
Moss, Mr.—Degradation of — of the Forest department and Government aid to his widow and children.	176	507	
Newington—See *Court of Wards.*			
Normal rates—See *Food-grains.*			
Nurseries—See *Assessment.*			
Officers.—Increase of—See *Revenue officers.*			
Official papers—Laying on the table of certain proceedings of Government.	374	1,040	
———Prior publication in the official gazettes of draft orders of Government and the Board of Revenue affecting the landed interests of the ryotwari holders and inamdars.	96	271	
——— See *Assessment, Food-grains* and *Water-rate.*			

REVENUE DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Oil-engine.—See *Assessment* and *Irrigation.*			
Opium.—Excessive consumption of — in the old Gódávari district.	317	895	
——— See *Abkári rules.*			
Palar.—See *Floods in the —.*			
Palmyra trees.—See *Fungus Disease.*			
Panchayats.—See *Income-tax.*			
Pasture grounds.—Reservation of unoccupied lands in villages as —.	114	312	
Pattas.—Abolition of the practice of village officials receiving — annually from ryots when there is no addition to or diminution in the holding.	201	579	
——— Adoption of the Bombay system in the issue of — before the commencement of the kist collecting season.	181	522	223
——— Refusal of landholders in Tanjore to receive — with the altered title of 'Kudi'.	115	314	
Penal assessment—See *Assessment.*			
Pensions in Native States—See *Income-tax.*			
Percolation.—See *Assessment, Irrigation by percolation, Irrigation cess Act* and *Water-rate.*			
Periyár affected tracts—See *Flood, Irrigation* and *Land acquisition.*			
Periyár Project—See *Agriculture, Assessment, Irrigation* and *Land acquisition.*			
Permanently-settled estates—See *Indebtedness of tenants* and *Proprietary Estates' Village Service Act,* 1894.			
Permits.—See *Forest department.*			
Permit system—See *Fuel.*			
Perumal Nayudu—See *Income-tax case.*			
Petitions.—Circular order of the Secretary to the Board of Revenue (Separate Revenue) prohibiting office subordinates from presenting petitions to him.	292 303	827 859	
——— Despatch of official orders to petitioners under service bearing system.	190	550	
——— See *Settlement—Malabar* and *Stamp fees.*			
Physical well-being.—Publication of statistics as to the physique of the people of the Presidency during the years 1906–1909.	139	378	
Plantain fibre—See *Industries.*			
Plantain gardens.—Application for water twice in the year in the case of —.	{ 4 28	12 70	
Podu cultivation—Prevention of — in the Agency tracts of the Northern Circars.	69	192	
Ponnuswami Aiyar, Mr.—See *Tahsildars.*			
Poole, Mr.—See *Salt, Abkári and Customs Department.*			
Poramboke lands—See *Assessment, Encroachments* and *Forest Reserves.*			
Postage—See *Petitions.*			
Pound fines—See *Cattle.*			
Prices—See *Food-grains.*			
Primary schools—See *Agricultural education* and *Agriculture.*			
Printing work—Execution of the — of Collectorates by private agency.	125	343	
Processes.—See *Arrears of Land Revenue* and *Assessment.*			
Prohibitory assessment—See *Assessment.*			
Proprietary estates—See *Imparitable Estates, Inams* and *Proprietary Estates' Village Service Act,* 1894.			
Proprietary Estates' Village Service Act, 1894.—Extension of the — to proprietary estates.	278	788	
——— Investing certain zamindars in Ganjám and Vizagapatam districts with power to fine village officers under section 2.	318	900	

REVENUE DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Proprietary Estates' Village Service Act, 1894.—Power of managers of estates under the Court of Wards to fine karnams under section 16 of the — and zamindars and estate managers empowered to exercise such power.	223	641 642	
Prosecutions.—See *Cattle, Customs Act, Diamond Finds, Forest cases* and *Forest.*			
Public servants. See *Dismissal of Public Servants.*			
Quit-rents.—Revision at the re-settlement of districts of — imposed on service inams in proprietary estates.	124	340	
Raghunatha Rao, M.R.Ry., Diwan Bahadur. See *Assessment.*			
Railway Guides.—See *Industries.*			
Railway stations.—See *Industries.*			
Rainfall.—Portions of Anantapur, Bellary and Kurnool districts included under the zone affected with insufficient rainfall.	205	591	
Ramasawmi Aiyar, R. S.—See *Dismissal of Public Servants.*			
Recovery of Land Revenue.—See *Arrears of Land Revenue, Assessment* and *Land Revenue.*			
Reclassification of soils.—See *Settlement.*			
Redistribution of districts.—Constitution of three new districts and sixteen additional divisions.	325	924	
——— Publication of the papers containing the views of the officers consulted with reference to the creation of the Guntúr district and the fixing of territorial limits of Gódávari, Kistna, Guntúr and Nellore districts.	186	535	
——— Publication of the proposal of Government regarding the redistribution of the central and southern districts.	186	536	
——— Publication of the scheme for the redistribution of districts, revenue sub-divisions and taluks.	146 315	400 889	
——— Readjustment of work by increasing sub-divisions and tahsildaris instead of collectorates in Gódávari and Kistna and elsewhere.	61	169	
——— Splitting of Gódávari and Kistna into three districts.	57	152	
——— Splitting up of Madura district into two.	188	543	
——— The throwing open of district and divisional offices in new districts to the Covenanted or Provincial Civil Service.	325	924	
——— Transfers of taluks between Salem, Coimbatore and Trichinopoly districts.	233	665	
Refunds.—See *Grazing Fees* and *Land Revenue.*			
Registration of land in Malabar —.	64	179 177	
Relief works.—See *Famine.*			
Remissions—See *Assessment, Famine, Land Revenue,* and *Village Service Cess.*			
Remission rules.—Revision of — for dry lands so as to empower the District Collector to grant remissions.	340	951	
——— Suspension of the rule requiring written applications from ryots for remissions.	200	578	
——— Working of —.	39	101	
Rent law.—See *Landlord and Tenant.*			
Report. See *Agriculture and Irrigation Works.*			
Reserve forests.—See *Forest reserves.*			
Revenue Inspectors.—See *Land Records.*			
Revenue officers.—Extent and cost of increase of covenanted and uncovenanted — when the Estates Land Bill is passed.	315	888	
——— Modification of the rule enjoining a certain amount of touring on — so as to restrict touring to inspection work only and to certain days in a month previously notified.	196	565	
Revenue Recovery.—See *Arrears of land revenue, Land Revenue* and *Sales of land.*			
Revenue sale.—See *Sales of land.*			
Revenue Test Examination.—See *Agriculture.*			

REVENUE DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Reward system.—Abolition of the — in the Salt, Abkári and Customs Department.	354	988	
Roads.—Widening of roadways in forest reserves	372	1,035	
Rule, Mr.—See *Salt, Abkári and Customs Department.*			
Rules—See *Abkári rules, Remission rules* and *Village Munsifs.*			
Ryots' indebtedness—See *Agricultural indebtedness.*			
Ryotwari holdings.— Number of — over five acres and up to ten acres in this presidency.	69	190	
Ryotwari land.—See *Irrigation Cess (Amendment) Act,* 1900.			
Ryotwari Pattadars.—Indebtedness of —	68	187	
Ryotwari system.—Fixity of Government demand as a fundamental principle of the —.	94	266	
Ryotwari tenure.—Description of the tenure and modification of the Standing Orders in conformity with the description.	37	97	
Sabai grass.—Starting of an experimental culture of — and sisal hemp.	76	196	
Salem—See *Industries—Iron* and *Settlement.*			
Sales of land—For arrears in the Wynaad taluk after the new settlement.	161 176	450 508	358
——— Increase in — for arrears in certain districts ..	101	281	763, 782, 818
——— Notice in the District Gazette of the dates of the — for arrears of land revenue.	79	219	
——— Omission of the condition requiring purchasers to give up lands subsequently for channels and roads.	204 205	589 590	
——— Resales after the resettlement in Malabar of property once sold for arrears of Government revenue for default of the new owner.	161	450	
——— Sale of the lands of Ranulapalle Venkatappa of Nyamaddala, Dharmavaram taluk, Anantapur district, for arrears of land revenue.	175	505	
——— Stoppage of the sale of tank-bed lands under Periyár irrigation.	196	563	
Saline soils.—Improvement of — in Gudiváda taluk, Kistna district, and in the deltaic tracts of the presidency.	356	993	
Salt.—Annual tax paid by Government to the Corporation of Madras for storing — within municipal limits.	256	725	
——— Capability of the Madras Presidency to manufacture — required for its consumption.	231	661	
——— Competition of Madras — with Bombay — and the effect of the monopoly system on such competition.	231	661	261
——— Cost per maund of — at Ennore factories and at Madras Salt Depot.	256	725	
——— Deterioration of the Ennore — in its transit to the Madras Depot.	231	661	
——— Fluctuations in the price of — in the district of Vizagapatam and other districts.	264	751	
——— Manufacturing capacity of Ennore factories ..	231	661	
——— Opening of a tramway to Ennore to render transport of — easy and the competition with Bombay salt successful.			
——— Promotion of the production of lighter and more refined forms of in this Presidency.	264	752	
——— Refund of duty on the unsold stock of — remaining with the merchants after the reduction of the duty.	123	337	
——— Rejection of the tenders of M. Siviah Chetti and J. H. Azimuddin & Co. for sale of — in certain districts and the Mysore Province.	256	725	
——— Storage of — at Ennore factories instead of at Madras.			
——— See *Testing of salt and beer.*			
Salt, Abkári and Customs Department.—Abolition of the system of rewards in the —.	243 354	691 988	
——— Abolition of competitive examination for the —.	149	410	

REVENUE DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Salt, Ábkári and Customs Department.—Conduct of an Assistant Inspector in searching the house of a Sub-Inspector at Kulittalai, the suicide of the latter in consequence and relief to his widow and family.	272 277	770 784	
——— Educational qualifications of the Indians and the Europeans and Eurasians in the gazetted ranks of the department.	271	76?	
——— Efficiency test for officers in the —.	128	352	
——— Increase of Indian element in the gazetted ranks.	271	767	
——— Increase of pay to sub-inspectors.	354	986	
——— Principles on which promotions are made in the —.	128	352	
——— Promotion of Mr. Fleming as Assistant Commissioner in supersession of his seniors.	128	352	
——— Promotion of sub-inspectors in the distillery branch.	243	691	
——— Reservation of higher ranks in the — to Europeans and Eurasians.	271	767	
——— Suicide of Messrs. Poole, Rule and Moore, Inspectors in the —.	121	332	
——— Supersession of native inspectors by junior Europeans in filling up Assistant Commissioner's appointments.	37	95	
——— See *Dismissal of public servants, Testing of salt and beer, Travelling allowance* and *Reward system.*			
Salt duty—See *Salt.*			
Salt factories.—Kudivaram rates paid to licensees in the Chinna Ganjám factory.	42	110	
Salt tax.—Effects of the reduction of —.	146	399	
Scarcity rates—See *Food-grains.*			
Scholarship notification.—Exclusion of Brahman applicants in a scholarship notification issued by Mr. Lushington, Conservator of Forests, inviting candidates for training in the Forest school at Dehra Dun.	241	686	
Schools of Arts—See *Industries.*			
Schools of weaving—See *Industries—Weaving.*			
Scott, Mr. E.—See *Fines.*			
Season and crop—See *Famine.*			
Secretary to the Board of Revenue—See *Petitions.*			
Seed-bed—See *Assessment.*			
Seed depôts.—Establishment of — in district head-quarters for selling or distributing best seeds among the ryots.	157	438	
Seigniorage fees—See *Grazing fees.*			
Sericulture school—See *Industries—Weaving.*			
Service-bearing system.—See *Petitions.*			
Service inams.—Enfranchisement of — in proprietary estates.	388	1082	
Settlement—(General.)—Appointment of a special officer to enquire into the working of the new settlement introduced in several districts.	145	396	
——— Calendar of the land revenue settlements in this Presidency corrected up to 30th June 1902.	118	322	
——— Crop experiments made by Revenue officers and the resulting commutation rates.	85	241	
——— Districts in which re-settlements are being carried on and the basis of such re-settlements.	225	646	
——— Error in the conversion of the local measure called *kuncham* into imperial seers in Malabar.	41	108	
——— Increase of assessment and the rate of commutation in the new settlements of Gódávari, Kistna, Trichinopoly, Tanjore, South Canara and other districts.	122 185	334 530	
——— Meaning and significance of the taram known as the permanently-improved land.	94	267	
——— Re-classification of soils at revision of settlements and legislation on the lines of the Bombay Land Revenue Code on the subject.	38	98	

REVENUE DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Settlement (General).—Ruling of the Secretary of State limiting to 15 per cent. the increase of assessment on an individual holding at any revision of settlement on account of rise in prices.	57	154	269, 270, 491.
——— *See Assessment* and *Quit rents.*			
Settlement—Anantapur.—Occupation of waste land in the district since the re settlement.	101	282	
Settlement—Gódávari.— Classification of the permanently-improved taram as per previous settlement and the re settlement.	94	267	
——— Crop experiments made by the Deputy Commissioner, the late Mr. Clerk, in view to the re-classification of soils of the upland taluks of the district.	94	268	
——— Levy of a special dry rate in the delta.	41	107	
——— Levy of extra charge of one rupee per acre in certain cases.	41	106	
——— Principles of future revisions of soils of the upland taluks.	94	268	
——— Publication of papers connected with the re-settlement of the district.	26	63	
——— Re-classification of soils of the upland taluks of the district and limit to the enhancement of assessment.	94	268	
———Removal in the Gódávari district of the *taram* or class known as the permanently-improved land.	94	267	
——— Soils in the upland taluks of the district that have deteriorated since the first settlement.	94	268	
——— Transfer of lands to higher classes and of villages to higher groups at the re-settlement.	42	109	
Settlement—(Gódávari and Kistna).—Extent of permanently-improved land in the districts in the previous settlement and the re-settlement.	94	267	
——— Final report on the introduction of the re-settlement rates in the districts.	57 91 118	155 257 323	
——— Financial results of the re-settlement of the Gódávari and Kistna districts.	42 57 94 118	109 155 268 323	
——— Measures for the prevention of deterioration of soils in the Gódávari and Kistna deltas.	24	60	
——— Relief afforded in cases of defective drainage in the re-settlement of the districts.	24	60	
Settlement—Guntúr.—Publication for public criticism of the scheme report for the re-settlement of the Guntúr portion of the Kistna district.	140	381	
Settlement—Guntur, Gódávari and Kistna.— Percentages of increase of revenue on dry and wet lands in the re-settlements of Guntúr, Gódávari and Masulipatam.	216	617	140, 577, 626.
Settlement—Guntúr, Kurnool and Nellore.—Basis of revised settlement in the districts.	261	743	
——— Statistics as to percentages of increase of revenue in these districts.	261	743	
Settlement—Kistna.—Increase of assessment in the re-settlement of the dry portion of the deltaic part of the Bezwada taluk.	15	43	
——— Publication of certain papers relating to owner's rate, etc.	26	63	
———Transfer of tank beds into ryotwari land and assessment thereof as tank-beds.	95	269	
Settlement—Malabar.—Attachment of malikanas of the Zamorin and other Rajas to realize the amount specified in the rough pattas issued in the settlement and survey charges.	64	179	
——— Collection of revenue as per rough pattas before hearing objections of the parties and granting final pattas.	64	179	

REVENUE DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Settlement—Malabar.—Facilities to resettlement of the district by the passing of the Malabar Land Registration Act.	64	177	
——— Financial results of the settlement	66 122 135	181 333 368	53, 144
——— Introduction of settlement operations in Calicut and Palghat taluks when petitions under the Malabar Land Registration Act were pending disposal and the provisions of that Act were fully given effect to.	64	177 179	
——— Modification of the settlement in view of the expression of the Government of India about progressive and graduated imposition of large enhancements.	83	235	
——— Representations from the Zamorin and others in reference to the re-settlement of the district and orders passed thereon.	45 63 64	120 176 178	
——— See *Arrears of land revenue.*			
Settlement—Malabar and South Canara.—Appeals to the Board of Revenue against the decisions of the settlement officers in connection with the new settlement.	163	457	
——— Collection of Government revenue shown in the rough pattas before the issue of final pattas.	64 163	179 458	
Settlement—Salem.—Average percentage of enhancement in assessment in the Salem district due to re-classification of soils.	174	501	
——— Principle on which the scheme for the re-settlement of the district will have to be conducted.	160	446	210
——— Saving of baling wet lands from increase of assessment.	184	527	
——— Statistics as to enhancement of assessment in — ..	174	501	
Settlement—South Canara.—Abstention from the re-settlement of the district after the Dhoro settlement of 1819 and reasons for the re-settlement.	101	283	
——— Differentiation of the yield due to the natural productivity of soil from that due to the ryots' industry and improvement	101	283	
——— Finality of the present classification of soils	101	283	
——— Insufficiency of time allowed for objecting to the issue of rough pattas.	108	293	
——— Levy of the reduced rates of assessment irrespective of appeals against the rates originally levied.	101	283	
——— Percentage of increase in the revision of assessment.	153	426	
——— Representations of the landholders of Coondapoor taluk about the settlement of their taluk.	163	455 & 456	
——— Representations of the Udipi memorialists for reduction of the new rates of assessment.	157	436	
——— Revision of assessment on the basis of the rental which the wargdars are in receipt of.	101	283	
Settlement—Tanjore —See *Irrigation.*			
Settlement—Tinnevelly.—Representations of the people of the district to the Board of Revenue regarding settlement operations in the district.	256	724	
Settlement Clerks.—Complaint regarding the locking in of the — in Salem.	256	723	
Settlement Manual.—The printing of a sufficient number of copies of the revised — for those desirous of submitting their views to Government thereon.	117	321	
Settlement-officer of the Board of Revenue—See *Famine.*			
Shulagiri, Minor Zamindar of —.See *Court of Wards.*			
Soils—See *Gódávari and Kistna deltas* and *settlement.*			

REVENUE DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Sisal hemp.—Resolution of Government of Bombay on the report of Mr. G. A. Gammie, officer in charge of the Botanical Survey on the experimental culture of — at Nandgaon.	70	196	
—— Stanting of the experimental culture of —	70	196	
Sivaiah Chetti, M.—See *Salt.*			
South Canara Settlement.—See *Settlement.*			
Srinivasa Raghavaiyangar's Memorandum.—See *Inamdars.*			
Sriramulu, P.—See *Dismissal of Public Servants.*			
Stamp fees.—Refusal of the Board of Revenue to receive a letter from the Tanjore District Association without a two-rupees court-fee stamp.	190	549	
Standing Orders of the Board of Revenue.—Approval of Government to Order No. 154 regarding cause of action in suits for emoluments of village officers and its suspension in Gódávari district pending enfranchisement operations	1:5	341	
—— See *Communications* and *Deputy Collectors.*			
Staple Crops.—See *Crops.*			
Stock Inspectors.—See *Civil Veterinary department.*			
Sub-Collector's office.—See *Establishment.*			
Sub-Inspectors.—See *Salt, Ábkári and Customs Department* and *Travelling Allowance.*			
Sub-Magistrates.—Increase of the pay of —	393	1095	
Sub-Magistrate, Salem.—See *Forest cases.*			
Sub-Magistrate, Tadpatri.—See *Forest cases.*			
Sugarcane.—See *Date-palm* and *Industries.— Sugar.*			
Suicide of certain officers—See *Salt, Ábkári and Customs Department.*			
Suits—instituted in the District Munsif's Court, Penukonda, against Government by persons whose arrears have been written off.	362	1009	
—— See *Revenue officers, Standing Orders of the Board of Revenue* and *Water-rate.*			
Supersessions.—See *Salt, Ábkári and Customs Department* and *Tahsildars.*			
Survey.—Orders by the Government of India for an industrial — of the Presidency.	315	890	
Survey—Malabar district.—Errors in the survey and the re-survey of Parappanangadi amsam, Ernad taluk, or other parts of the district at the cost of Government.	274 295	773 834	
Survey charges, Malabar.—Attachment of malikhanas for recovering — incurred for registration under the Malabar Land Registration Act.	64	179	
—— Impropriety in the mode of debiting — to each land-holder.	64	179	
Survey Department.—Annual cost of the —	371	1033	
—— Reduction in —	371	1033	
—— See *Land Records.*			
Survey operations.—Completion of — in the presidency ..	371	1033	
Survey school.—In the Cuddapah district for training karnams.	219	626	
Survey training of karnams	219	626	
Suspension of kist.—See *Famine.*			
Suspension of land revenue.—See *Land Revenue.*			
Sweet toddy.—See *Toddy.*			
Tahsildars—Anantapur district.—Reversion of Mr. Ponnuswami Aiyar from a tahsildari on Rs. 200 to Rs. 175, appointment of Mr. C. Venkoba Rao, a tahsildar on Rs. 150, from Bellary to the vacancy on Rs. 200, and reasons for the supersession of other — in the district	208	600	
Tahsildars—Coimbatore district.—Issue of an order by the Collector of Coimbatore directing tahsildars to be out in camp for at least seven days together and its subsequent cancellation.	212	608	
—— See *Agriculture* and *Land Records.*			

REVENUE DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Taluks—Coimbatore district.—Constitution of a new taluk of Avanashi with Avanashi as head-quarters.	208	599	
—— —— See *Head-quarters.*			
Taluk gumastahs.—Proposals for raising the pay of — ..	324	917	
Taluk head-quarters.—See *Head-quarters.*			
Taluk office, Tindivanam.—Disposal of the building occupied by the old —.	149	409	
Taluk office, Uttangarai.—Construction of a new building for the —.	110	298	
Tangedu bark lessees.—See *Arrears of land revenue* and *Suits.*			
Tanjore.—See *Famine, Mirasidars* and *Settlement.*			
Tank-bed lands.—See *Sales of land.*			
Taxation.—See *Cultivation, Income-tax and Salt-tax.*			
Temperance Conference.— See *Liquor shops.*			
Tenants.—See *Inamdars* and *Indebtedness of tenants.*			
Testing of salt and beer.—Appointment of a new Abkári Deputy Commissioner for the —, his qualifications and duties, and his office establishment.	12 13 {	33 34 35	
—— —— Construction of a laboratory for the new Abkári Deputy Commissioner.	13	35	
—— —— Transfer of the work of the — from the Chemical Examiner's laboratory to that of the new Abkári Deputy Commissioner.	13	35	
Textile school. —See *Industries—Weaving.*			
Tindivanam Taluk office.—See *Taluk office, Tindivanam.*			
Tiruppur.—See *Head-quarters.*			
Toddy.—Effect of the tree-tax system of — administration on the jaggery industry.	{ 9 18	26 49	956, 143
—— —— Revision of the rules regarding tapping for sweet — to redress the grievances of jaggery manufactures and tappers of sweet toddy.	18	49	
—— —— Toddy drawers' strike, Tinnevelly district	21	53	3
Toddy shops.—Statistics as to — in municipal and local board areas.	375	1,044	
Touring of Revenue officers.—See *Deputy Tahsildars, Revenue officers, Tahsildars* and *Travelling allowance.*			
Tramway.—See *Salt.*			
Travelling allowance.—Amount spent on the — of revenue officers on tour during 1903–1904.	192	557	
—— —— Grant of batta and — to deputy tahsildars ..	215 290 363	615 821 1,012	17
—— —— Grant of batta and — to sub-inspectors of the Salt, Abkári and Customs Department.	354	987	
—— —— Ranking of deputy collectors drawing Rs. 500 and less as second-class officers for purposes of —.	290	820	
—— —— Ranking of deputy collectors and other members of Provincial service in charge of sub-divisions and of Inspectors of Salt and Abkári Revenue in independent charge of circles, as first-class officers for purposes of —.	290	820	
Treasuries.—See *Establishment.*			
Treasury inspection.—See *Tahsildars.*			
Trees on poromboke lands.—See *Agriculture.*			
Tree-tax system.—See *Toddy.*			
Turmeric.—See *Water-rate.*			
Udaiyárpalaiyam estate.—See *Impartible Estates.*			
Uralars.—See *Arrears of land revenue.*			
Uttangarai taluk office.—See *Taluk office, Uttangarai.*			
Vœlcker, Dr.—See *Manure.*			
Valiya Nambiyar of Pannur —See *Malikana allowance.*			
Venkatappa Ranulapalle.—See *Sales of land.*			
Venkoba Rao, B.—See *Dismissal of public servants.*			

REVENUE DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Venkoba Rao, C.—See *Tahsildars.*			
Veterinary Assistants.—Appointment of — for Vizagapatam district.	305	867	
——— Number of —	367	1,022	
Veterinary Colleges and Schools.—Existence of — in other provinces.	100	279	
Veterinary department.—See *Civil Veterinary department.*			
Veterinary education.—Provision in the budget for — ..	100	280	
Veterinary hospitals and dispensaries.—Establishment of — in Malabar.	382	1,066	
——— Existence of — in most other provinces in India and the opening of a sufficient number of — in this Presidency.	99 262	277 748	
——— Opening of a veterinary hospital in Vizagapatam ..	305	867	
——— Location of —	367	1,022	
Veterinary Inspectors.—Number of —	367	1,022	
Village-cess.—See *Village Service cess.*			
Village-cess Act.—Districts in which the — is in force ..	12	32	
Village-cess fund.—Expenditure from —	12	32	
——— Payment of *nirgantis* out of —	91	256	
Village commons and village-sites.—Insufficiency of — in the delta tracts of Gódávari, Kistna and Guntúr districts and provision thereof at the cost of Government or the villagers.	281	794	
Village establishments.—Cost of — in permanently-settled tracts and provision in next year's budget for —.	278	788	
——— Increase of — in the Tanjore district ..	33	82	312
Village Munsifs.—Number of — exercising civil jurisdiction under the Madras Village Courts Act, 1888, in the Ceded and certain other districts.	8	22	
——— Rules for the appointment of —	313 392	884 1,093	
——— System of honorary — and its abolition	20	50	
——— See *Agricultural training.*			
Village Munsifs' Courts.—Grant for supply of furniture to all — in the Presidency.	175	504	
Village officers.—Batta to —	60	164	
——— Cause of action in suits for emoluments of —	125	341	
——— Detention of village accountants in taluk stations in Anantapur from 4 to 6 months in the year.	60	164	
——— Grant of leave to — for 14 days in a year with pay.	201	580	
——— See *Standing Orders of the Board of Revenue* and *Proprietary Estates' Village Service Act,* 1894.			
Village Service cess.—Abolition of — in proprietary estates ..	278 389	788 1,083	
——— Increase in the rate of —	12	32	
——— Increase of — in the Tanjore district .. .	33	82	
——— Remission of — for fasli 1315 in respect of instalments due after 31st March 1906.	278	789	
——— Remission of — for fasli 1315 in whole or in part to pattadars in ryotwari tracts.	278	789	
——— See *Kaval fees.*			
Village Service inams.—See *Inams.*			
Village Service lands.—See *Assessment.*			
Wargs.—See *Settlement — South Canara.*			
Warning rate.—See *Famine.*			
Waste land.—Extent and assessment per acre of — in the Presidency and measures for the cultivation thereof.	38	100	
——— See *Encroachments* and *Forest reserves.*			
Water-cess.—See *Water-rate.*			
Water-cess Act.—See *Irrigation cess Act,* 1865.			

REVENUE DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume
Water-rate.—Application of the principles enunciated in the Secretary of State's despatch of 1860 regarding the assessment of — and the imposition of a consolidated wet rate in the re-settlement of Gódávari and Kistna districts.	27	67	
——— Average — levied in the Presidency, its proportion to the value of the crop and insertion of this information in annual reports on irrigation works.	28 39	68 103	
——— Change in the method of determining the excess area for the purpose of — in the Gódávari district.	58	157	
——— Extension of the concession of applying for water for every six months in a year to those who raise plantain gardens in the Gódávari and Kistna deltas, and the levy of a single — for that period.	4 28	12 70	
——— Final orders of Government confirming the five-rupee — on inam and *zamin* lands in the Gódávari and Kistna deltas.	88	249	366 654 808
——— General increase of — throughout the Presidency.	144	394	
——— Imposition of multiples of standard — as fines for unauthorized use of Government water.	246	700	
——— Increase in land revenue in the deltas of Gódávari and Kistna by the levy of enhanced — in the case of inam and zamindari lands.	91	259	
——— Increase of assessment on ryotwari lands in certain parts of the Gódávari and Kistna districts with different water-rates.	91	258	
——— Instructions issued for levy of — on crops benefited by percolation in Tanjore.	226 228 248	648 653 655 706	
——— Exemption from — of mamul wet inam and *zamin* lands in the Gódávari and Kistna deltas.	26	65	
——— Levy of double — on turmeric.	4	12	
——— Levy of — and penal assessment on achukattu lands in Chingleput and other districts.	184 186	529 537	
——— Levy of — for involuntary flow in the Kistna and Gódávari deltas and other places and the amount of revenue involved in it.	5 13 14 23	14, 15 37, 38 39 58	
——— Levy of — in certain cases in the Gódávari district.	57	156	
——— Levy of — in Kistna and Guntûr districts for river water utilized to flood saline soils after the crops are cut.	294	831	
——— Levy of — in the case of lands under the Sriranga-puram branch of the Kommamur canal, Kistna district.	40	105	
——— Levy of — in the district of Bellary for water taken from a Government source of irrigation to mould bricks.	177	511	
——— Levy of — in the village of Losarigutlapadu, Gódávari district.	22	57	
——— Levy of — on mamul or *faisal* nanja lands in inam villages in the Madura district.	231	660	
——— Limitation on imposition of — for irrigation by percolation.	39 246	10[illegible] 700	
——— Localisation and determination of the extent of mamul wet lands in non-Government villages in Gódávari district for purposes of —.	58	157	
——— On lands under the Gódávari irrigation system ..	57 331	156 936	
——— Power of jamabandi officers to levy penal rates for unauthorized use of water.	144	3[illegible]	
——— Average — levied in Punjab and Bengal	28 39	68 103	
——— Reduction of — when oil-engine pumping is used ..	369	1,028	

REVENUE DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

Subject.	Page.	Number of question.	Reference to other similar questions in Volume I.
Water-rate.—Reduction of — on lands bearing crops such as chillies, brinjals and turmeric in certain taluks of Guntúr and Kistna districts and grant of option to ryots in such cases to apply for water for six months or more.	280	793	
——— Reduction of — on sugarcane cultivation . . .	390	1,087	
——— Statistics as to cases where — could not be levied for direct or indirect flow or percolation of water in Gódávari, Kistna and other districts and loss of revenue therefrom.	13 14	37 38 39	
——— Statistics as to claims of individual cultivators holding fields in the midst of wet cultivation for exemption from —.	5	14	
——— Statistics in connection with the option of the ryots to take or refuse water in the Gódávari and Kistna deltas and cancellation of the extra charge levied from owners of lands to whom the option was allowed.	32 41	81 106	
——— Suits from the Gódávari district in which the — levied has been contested on the ground that the water-supply was not beneficial or had not been used.	23	59	
——— See *Assessment*, *Irrigation*, *Irrigation by percolation* and *Irrigation works*.			
Water-sources.—Facilities to zamindars to conserve — by the grant of sanction under clauses (*b*) and (*c*) of section 32 of the Forest Act.	330	934	
Wells.—Artesian well-sinking experiment in the Presidency.	44	116	72
——— Drilled wells in the Presidency	44	116	
——— Sinking of wells as a famine-relief work	2 195	7 562	
——— Well-boring operations in the Circars	370	1,030	
——— See *Irrigation* and *Water-rate*.			
Wild animals.—Destruction of crops by —	369	1,026	
——— Mortality from — among men and cattle.	369 386	1,026 1,073	
——— Measures for the safety of crops and life from wild pigs in the Ceded districts.	352	979	
Wyndham, Mr.—See *Court of Wards*.			
Yerikkattalai land in Tanjore.—See *Assessment*.			
Zamindar of Shulagiri.—See *Court of Wards*.			
Zamindaris / *Zamindars* } See *Forest reserves*, *Inams*, *Land-bank*, *Proprietary Estates' Village Service Act*, 1894, and *Village Service cess*.			

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE